GROUND-HOPPER Magazine

No. 15

DECEMBER 1988

£1.00



THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE INDEPENDENT NON-LEAGUE TRAVELLER!

GROUND-HOPPER Magazine

439 Merton Road, Wandsworth
London SW18 5LB

*Please note: We **do not** accept telephone enquiries relating to the magazine under any circumstances. All communication **must** be in writing to above address.*

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THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE INDEPENDENT NON-LEAGUE TRAVELLER

GROUNDHOPPER Magazine

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WHAT'S WHAT IN THIS MONTH'S SPARKLING ISSUE

GROUNDHOPPER'S VIEWPOINT

with STEVE KING



Last month, I asked for your views about the subject of the FA Cup, and whether only clubs who have floodlights should be allowed to enter the competition. Unfortunately, most of you do not seem to have any views one way or the other, as we only received one or two letters on the subject, which is a shame because it would have been interesting to find out what the general opinion is on this particular subject. But of the few letters we did actually receive, most are of the opinion that clubs SHOULD be allowed to compete in the FA Cup even without floodlights. So it would appear that the Barking FC chairman is in the minority when he states that it should be a requirement that only clubs with lights should be allowed in the FA Cup.

One or two people have written in suggesting that we should have a more varied team of contributors instead of the same ones writing in the magazine each month. They feel that the magazine can become a little predictable in its present form, so if you feel you can write an article on groundhopping, or about your travels, or better still, write about clubs who do not get much publicity from the minor leagues, providing details of the grounds and photos if possible, we would very much welcome them for inclusion in future issues.

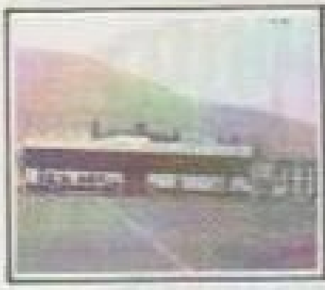
Our present team of contributors all write about different aspects of groundhopping, from continental football to regional round-ups, and we think it gives a balanced look to the magazine, but if others would also like to contribute, we will always consider anything for publication, so please write in to the usual magazine address.

This month's question for our readers is as follows:-

IS IT GOOD FOR NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL THAT SO MANY CLUBS ARE MOVING TO NEW GROUNDS?

With the property developers moving in at so many famous old grounds such as Kingstonian, Wycombe Wanderers, etc. is it a case of selling to survive and moving elsewhere or does it have its beneficial side in that apart from securing a club's long-term future financially, it is a good way of replacing antiquated stadiums with modern new ones for the 1990's?

We want to hear from you on this sensitive subject so write to us today at the following address:- *QUESTION OF THE MONTH, GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE, 439 MERTON ROAD, WANDSWORTH, LONDON, SW18 5LB.* Closing date for your views will be Monday 28th November. We hope to print extracts from the best of the letters we receive on this subject in our "Hopper Post" pages next month, so if you have any views on the subject of clubs moving grounds, drop us a line as soon as possible. Next month, in our special christmas issue, we will have another question about an important non-league subject for our readers to think about.



NEWSDESK



COMPILED BY STEVE KING

On Tuesday 13th December, there is a match between BASHLEY FC (Wessex League) and Tottenham Hotspur. This is to commemorate the opening of their new stand. Spurs are hoping to field a mixture of First Team and Reserve Team players including former goalkeeper Ray Clemence. For groundhoppers who wish to attend this match, and have never been to Bashley before, if travelling from London take M3 to the end and join A33 Winchester by-pass, after about 6 miles join M27 westbound. Be careful not to take the Portsmouth Road as this is eastbound. Follow M27 until Junction No.1 turn off signposted the New Forest. At roundabout follow signs to Lydhurst A337 and follow one way system for Bournemouth A35. After 6 miles turn left onto B3058 signposted New Milton until you come into Wooton. Look for the garage on left 20 yards, then turn into Bashley FC. By train, from Waterloo take train to New Milton station then get a taxi as no buses are available....Federated Homes League side RAYNERS LANE would very much like to install floodlights at their ground, but because of the many objectors, they are finding planning permission very difficult to obtain....And sticking with the Federated Homes League, BISHOPS CLEEVE have made a number of impressive ground improvements with new drainage system, enclosed standing area and modernising of the clubhouse all being done since the summer....An amazing incident occurred three minutes from the end of the recent VOL match at RAINHAM TOWN against neighbours Purfleet. The home side were surprisingly leading 1-0 when Purfleet won a free-kick just outside the penalty box. It was taken and the player scored, but Rainham claimed that the ball went through the side of the net. There was then a five minute delay because the home 'keeper refused to give the ball back for the kick-off to take place. Eventually the game restarted after the furious goalkeeper had called the referee a few choice names and was sent off. As he left the field, he then kicked in the gate in anger. And they say the fans are hooligans!....Spotted in The Times newspaper on 22nd October 1988 (see left) a good write-up on the Hopper Round Britain Club which Steve Pettit has introduced for those who like to visit places a little out of the ordinary. With groundhopping generally become more and more popular, maybe, just maybe, one day we won't be looked on as nutcases as the writer of this little piece suggested. Oh well, pigs do fly!....On Monday 24th October, around 2,000 fans turned up at HOLYHEAD to watch a Holyhead Select XI beat Rest of Anglesey XI 4-2 to celebrate the official opening of of the Holyhead Football Stadium. The ground will be used by HOLYHEAD TOWN who play in the Gwynedd League and HOLYHEAD UNITED JUNIORS who appear in the Anglesey League. The stadium is one of the most ambitious sporting projects ever undertaken by a local authority. The centrepiece is the lush, almost-natural Soccerilan playing pitch which looks and feels like grass, but is in fact a man-made plastic carpet. The stadium also comprises a grandstand which will accommodate 500 seated spectators, changing rooms for four teams, and floodlights on eight pylons, as well as a large car park. The cost of the scheme is around £600,000, towards which grants have been obtained from the Football Trust. Incidentally, Holyhead Town hope to produce a programme for the Gwynedd League matches in the not too distant future....Interesting fact time! Did you know that MATLOCK TOWN have never won a match in Wales. Against Bangor City, Caernarfon Town, Rhyl and Colwyn Bay they have played 26 times in Wales, and their record is as follows:- Won 0, Drew 8, Lost 18, Scored 25, Conceded 63. The jinx persisted on September 10th at Caernarfon, losing 2-0 and also goalkeeper Ian Ironside went off with a collapsed lung....Following MANGOTSFIELD TOWN's disappointment at failing to gain election to the Beazer Homes League, the club have begun work on ground improvements, including new fencing along two sides of the ground, extra lights installed on the floodlight pylons, plans for a 254-seater grandstand and additional covered standing are well advanced...The BBC Children in Need Appeal 1988 gets under way soon, and Ian Runham of the Wirral Prog-



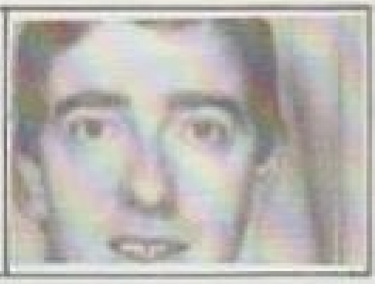
By the time you read this, they will be long gone. These people, who come from Gloucestershire, Devon, and even Milton Keynes, assembled at Cannock in Staffordshire at 5.30am, to travel by minibus to watch Stenhousemuir v Brechin City in the Scottish second division. These are members of the newly formed groundhopping nutcase organization, the Hopper Round Britain Club. This is their third visit to Scotland this year, they were oversubscribed for the trip, and are thinking about expansion.

The organizer is the tireless Steve Pettit, programme editor for Hednesford Town of the Beazer Homes League and one of football's super-heroes. He has been to 46 matches so far this season, and said "The chap who will do our driving on Saturday has already been to 65 or 70, and will reckon on doing 300 by the end of the season. I admit that's going a bit far, because he goes to a game almost every day of the week. When, like me, you've got a wife and a job and don't want to lose either, you've got to be a bit realistic."

Continued on page 12

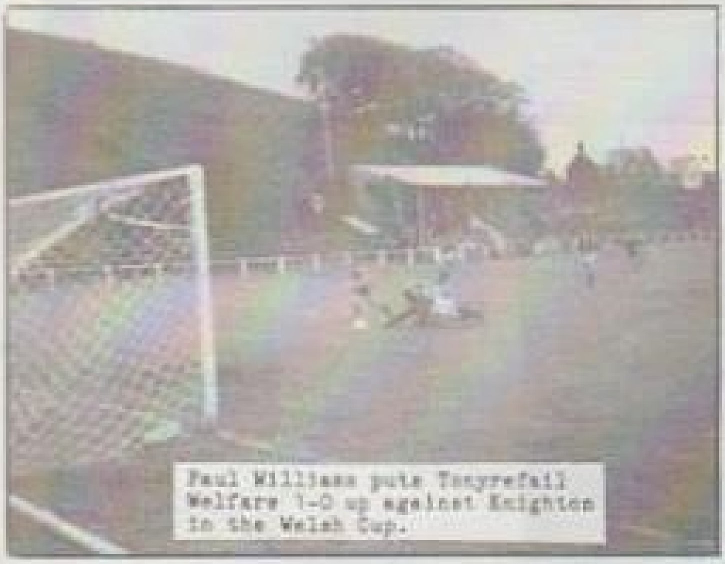
WELSH RABBIT

All the latest news and gossip from the Welsh non-league scene
with David Collins



My month here in Wales has been very much dominated by cup football. First came the second round of the Welsh Intermediate Cup, with no shortage of interesting venues but in the end I decided to head for mid-Wales where Llandrindod Wells of the Manweb League were entertaining Llanfair Caereinion of the Spar Amateur League. Our weekend in the pleasant Victorian spa town was certainly dampened by the incessant rain but at least the match went ahead, with the home side scraping through 3-2 thanks to a late penalty. A nice ground with (thankfully) ample cover in a long stand, and Llandrindod issued an attractive white, yellow and blue programme (strange as the club colours are red). A word of warning though: the Broadway ground isn't in the road of the same name, it is in Lant Avenue! Elsewhere in the same round, Welsh League Treharris fell to S.Wales Amateur League champions BSC (Port Talbot).

After a midweek visit to Cardiff City's European win over Derry, I was back the following Saturday in more normal surroundings : in a crowd of 100 or so, on a windswept, rain-lashed Welsh League ground, and enjoying every minute of it! The venue was Tonyrefail where the Welfare were taking on Knighton Town in the Welsh Cup second round - on paper perhaps not the tie of the round, but an interesting opportunity to compare Abacus Welsh and Manweb League standards. Tonyrefail's rather unexpected 3-1 win generated an excellent atmosphere at this friendly, well-run club as we huddled in the ancient stand amid monsoon conditions. The Welfare Park is worth a visit - fully enclosed, one side terraced, and a match programme which puts many Welsh League National Division clubs to shame.



Paul Williams puts Tonyrefail Welfare 1-0 up against Knighton in the Welsh Cup.



Llandrindod Wells v. Llanfair Caerinion in the 2nd Round of the Welsh Intermediate Cup.

Clydach United completed a Welsh League double over the Manweb League, putting out Presteigne, but again the highlight of the round was provided by little Risca United, who collected another Abacus Welsh League scalp with their win at Ferndale. It is certainly unusual for a Gwent County League club to make it into the hat for the 3rd Round draw with the League sides.

Surprising draws were obtained by Gresford (at Newtown) and Caldicot Town (at Abergavenny) but both lost home replays. I visited Caldicot's Jubilee Way ground for the replay and was impressed by this ambitious club, only in their third year in the Abacus Welsh League. Their priority is apparently provision of covered accommodation and this would certainly enhance this otherwise excellent (if slightly cramped) ground. Credit must be given for another very good programme and the use of a public address system - both areas which many South Wales clubs largely ignore.

Highlights of the 3rd round draw include Merthyr v. Swansea, Tonyrefail v. Worcester, Lex XI v. Wrexham and Shrewsbury v. Caernarfon. Risca miss out on the real moneyspinning possibilities and must visit Abergavenny. I'll be reporting on these ties in two months' time, but next month I will focus on some of the clubs making the league headlines in Wales.



THE EASTERN SCENE

with PADDY LILLISTONE

A news round-up from East Anglia and the surrounding areas

One of the Jewson Eastern League Division One sides to join this summer was the former Ipswich Sunday side Loadwell Transport, but their new venture nearly came to a quick end. When plans to build a purpose-built stadium on the outskirts of the town fell through, they arranged to use a sports centre pitch instead, but league officials turned this down as the pitch was full of stones. Faced with this eve-of-season dilemma, Loadwell managed to persuade the sports centre to lease a pitch elsewhere on their complex and they expect to have used the new pitch from the start of October.
However, their troubles are still not over, as the new pitch encroaches on the cricket square of a very successful local side who are up in arms, and in any case there is the very real threat of a new road passing right through the complex!

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Jewson League side Ely City's move to a new ground a couple of years ago has proved their salvation with floodlights bring ing a surge of interest for the Fen Country town club. Increased attendances and bar takings have wiped out a £9,000 debt and the club now has a real 'buzz' about it.

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To commemorate the demolition of Lowestoft Town's century old pavilion, the Blues invited all players who have turned out for the club since the war and even before to come along to the ground. And with Brantham Athletic opening their £18,000 floodlights in October, Felixstowe Town are the only Jewson League Premier club still without lights. They have until 1990-91 season to get them at which the league insists that all clubs must have floodlights.

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LEFT:
The stand and covered acco
odation at Stowmarket Town
Photo: Paddy Lillistone.

On Stowmarket Town's first visit to Canvey Island for an FA Cup match, they were astounded to be given a free barbeque after the match by their hospitable hosts.

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Peterborough League side Parsons Drove were upset that their application to join the Jewson League Division 1 was not accepted when Ipswich Sunday League side Loadwell were. Mind you, they did finish bottom of their league last season, with only 5 points and 162 goals conceded!
The Essex & Suffolk Border League had its first lady official in action for a match in its 75 years. Mrs Pat Bailey was on the line for the Bramston v. Sudbury Wanderers knockout cup match.

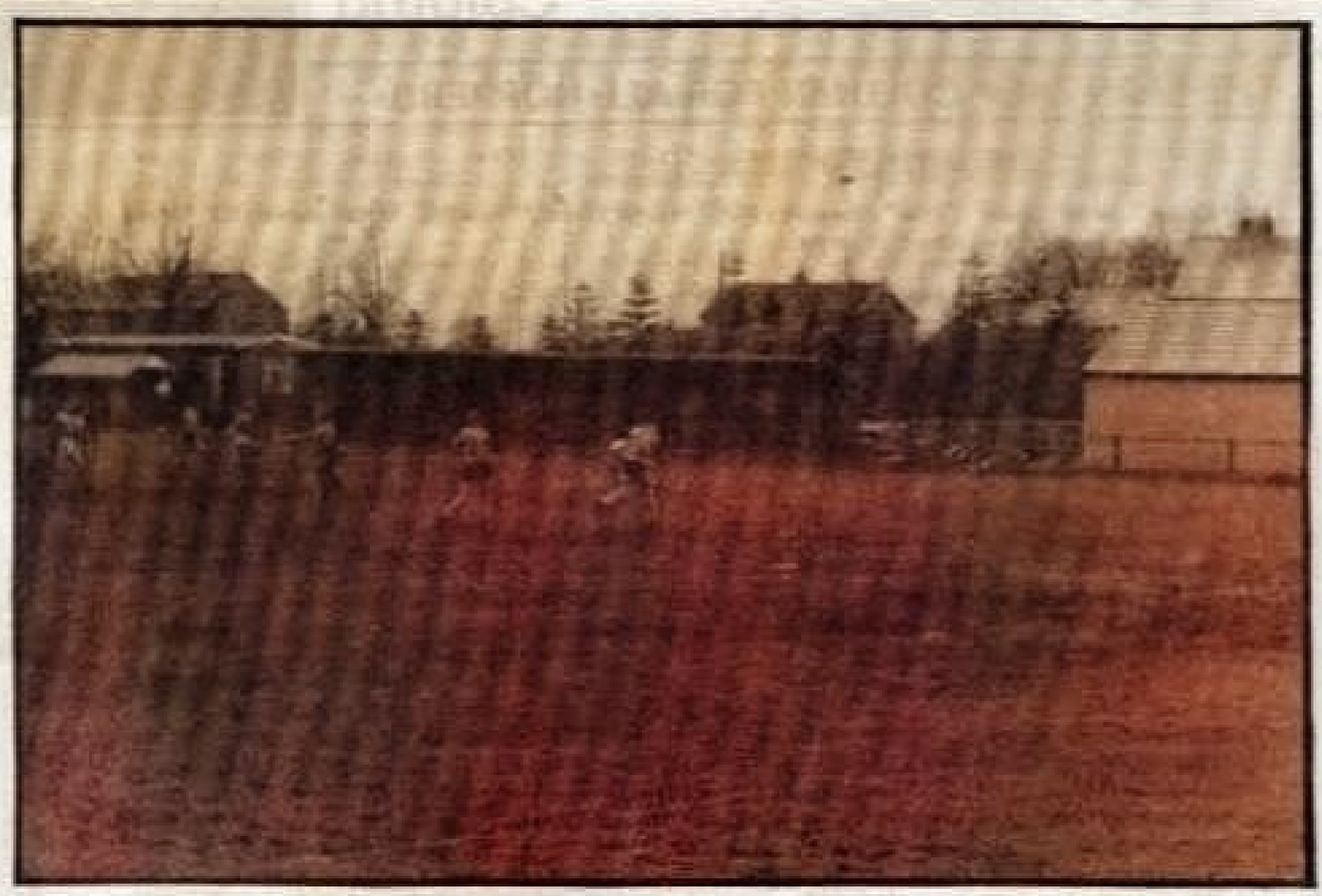
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Clacton Town have commenced work on a new stand at their Rush Green Bowl ground. Their revamped match programme is one of the best around the Eastern area this season and well worth a look. Copies are available at 25p + SAE from Kevin Crane, 2 Purley Way, Clacton-onSea, Essex, CO16 8YX.

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The Bury Town club shop is now open on matchdays but postal exchanges or enquiries are welcome from:- David Brinkley, 'The Cedars' 55 King Hall Street, Rougham Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP30 9LE.

- GROUNDS IN FOCUS -



ABOVE: Shap (Westmoreland League). *Leo Hoenig.*
BELOW: Eastwood Hanley (NPL, Div 1). *John Bower.*



The TONY MIDDLETON Column



THE MONTHLY COLUMN FOR ALL HOPPERS

THE OUTER HEBRIDES

Come and see the beautiful Hebrides, said the advert. And that's exactly what I did.

If you only attend a match where there is a programme, or a badge, then forget it. If you want to watch football in a different environment, then the summer football league on Harris and Lewis is well worth a look.

There are eleven teams in the league, and they play Fridays (7pm) and Mondays (7pm.) It is advisable to obtain a fixture list before you go, but the Stornaway Gazette, or West Highland Free Press, both give excellent coverage. I also have the phone number and adress of the secretary should anyone want them.

Getting there can be a problem, and it will be expensive. You can go by air direct into Stornaway, but if you have your own transport, it involves two boat trips. A short five minute hop to Skye is followed by a 50 mile trip up to Uig in the north, from where you can get the (daily) ferry to Tarbert, this crossing taking two hours. This will set you back about £80. The other alternative is to go from Ullapool to Stornaway, a 4 hour crossing, which is hidiously expensive.
If you do not have your own transport, then you must stay in Stornaway, as public transport in the island is useless for football purposes, and most of the teams are based around Stornaway. There is only one team on Harris, and that is Harris FC, and to get to this ground you really need your own transport. It is 45 miles away from Stornaway, and the road is single track with passing places and thousands of sheep.

There is plenty of bed and breakfast accommodation available, at about £9 per night. You are strongly advised to book an evening meal for Sunday, as absolutely nothing will be open. I stayed at an excellent guest house in Tarbert, but this is of no use to anyone without transport of their own. Do not, under any circumstances, stay at the youth hostel. It may well be cheaper, but it is three miles from the nearest road, and can only be reached by boat, or by foot along a very spectacular and narrow footpath. It cannot be reached by car. If you stray off the path, you could well be lost forever in an unprogrammed peat bog.

Come prepared for bad weather. There are only 14 rain free days (on average), and the summer temperature averages 55 f. I arrived on Harris in driving rain, which continued in various intensity throughout my stay. Fortunately I went by car, and not by motorbike. I went for a quick drive around Harris, and found myself in a soaking wet, lunar landscape, populated only by sheep, with just a house here and there. The roads were single track, and petrol stations were rarely to be found. Trying to find somewhere for a cup of tea proved virtually impossible, and it is very easy to become depressed within minutes of leaving the boat. Persevere, and you will find a totally new environment, and one which is thoroughly enjoyable.

I was fortunate, in as much as Mr. and Mrs. McPherson, who owned the guest house, were both football enthusiasts, and their son played for Harris FC. I very quickly found out where all the grounds were, and had the opportunity to take in three matches, which had all been rearranged following prolonged bad weather. The first of these was at Harris, who were at home to Rovers in their final match of the season. It was a 7pm kick off, and as

I drove out to the ground the weather gradually got worse. The pitch is eight miles south of Tarbert, in a small village. I arrived at 6.45, and the ground was totally deserted. It was raining, very misty, and there was a gale blowing. The pitch was partly under water. It was clearly off, so I drove away, and then stopped to look at some greenshank on the machair. At 6.55 a minivan came past, (the first vehicle I had seen for what seemed like hours,) and in it were eleven people, all in football kit. This looked promising. At 7.01 five cars came by, and these drew up at the pitch. 7.05, and two players held a pitch inspection, and at 7.10 posts were put out. The referee suddenly appeared from another car, and at 7.20 the match began, in a wet, murky gloom, watched only by hundreds of seagulls, soaring in the background. In steadily deteriorating conditions, the match eventually finished, 4-0 to Harris, in near darkness.

I learned afterwards that the pitch is so close to the machair, that, when the tide comes in, it curves round, and some matches have had to be abandoned due to high tide. A few cars were scattered around, and on really dark evenings they put their lights on to enable the match to finish. This was a match to be remembered, not for the football, but for the fact that it actually started, and was played to a conclusion. After this spectacular, what could possibly follow.

The next day was the local schools final, intended to be played at Goathill Park, Stornaway, the main venue on the island, and the best was left until last. The final match of the season just happened to be the title decider. Rovers were at home to Athletic, who, on the Wednesday prior, had won their penultimate match, whilst league leaders Ness had been beaten. Athletic needed one point to take the title, which Ness had held since 1983. Due to the weather, Goathill Park was still unplayable, and the match was switched to Point FC, five minutes up the road. After the unforgettable Harris match, this turned out to be a let down. Athletic won 3-0 and took the title.

Although I do not set out to visit grounds for the sheer sake of it, I did tour the entire island, and saw most of the venues. Several are very good, and up to Southern League standard, whilst others are little more than a pitch somewhere in the middle of nowhere. If you intend to go simply for the football, you will have plenty of time on your hands, but if you are really keen, you can watch the Friday night matches, then take the boat either to Skye or Uist for the Saturday leagues, then return to Harris for the Monday. Matches in Barra incidentally also occassionally take place on Sunday.

Final Table. HARRIS & LEWIS LEAGUE.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	LOCATION	DISTANCE FROM STORNAWAY
ATHLETIC	20	17	1	1	73	24	35	Goathill Park	0
NESS	20	16	1	3	60	10	33	Lionel, Butt of Lewis	28
LOCHS	20	11	4	5	57	40	26	Leurbost	8
CAROWAY	20	9	6	5	47	36	24	Caroway	22
POINT	20	10	1	9	52	37	21	Garrabost	4
TOLSTA	20	7	5	9	55	50	19	Tong	3
ROVERS	20	8	3	9	29	38	19	Goathill Park	0
BACK	20	6	3	11	35	63	15	Back	4
UNITED	20	5	2	13	23	53	17	Goathill Park	0
HARRIS	20	5	1	14	41	64	11	Seilebost	43
WEST SIDE	20	2	1	17	19	76	5	Barvas	14

DISTANCES BETWEEN GROUNDS

ATHLETIC										
4	BACK									
22	23	CAROWAY								
43	47	56	HARRIS							
8	13	30	38	LOCHS						
28	29	26	70	36	NESS					
4	6	26	46	12	32	POINT				
0	4	22	43	8	28	4	ROVERS			
3	1	22	46	12	28	5	3	TOLSTA		
0	4	22	43	8	28	4	0	3	UNITED	
14	15	11	57	21	15	18	14	14	14	WEST SIDE



Club File
Abingdo

The Ground • The Programme • Facilities • F

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB

GROUND: Culham Road, Abingdon, Oxon.
GROUND TELEPHONE NUMBER: 0235 21684
SECRETARY: D S Sharp, 35 Fir Tree Ave, Wallingford.
Tel: 0491 36796
FLOODLIGHTS: Yes.
PROGRAMME: Yes (24 pages).
COLOURS: Green & Yellow.
MEMBERS OF: Green King Spartan Premier Division.
GROUND CAPACITY: 2,000.
YEAR FORMED: 1880.
COVERED ACCOMMODATION: 20%
CLUBHOUSE: Yes.
CLUB SHOP: Yes.
TEA BAR: Yes.
DISTANCE FROM TOWN CENTRE: Half mile.
USUAL KICK-OFF TIME: Saturday - 3.00pm.
Midweek - 7.30pm.



The Board Room at Abingdon Town.

HOW TO GET THERE

The nearest railway station to Abingdon is Radley, only two miles away and within easy walking distance. Oxford and Didcot are both six miles away. Abingdon is well served by buses from Oxford, and it also has its own mini-bus service around the town. Any bus to the town centre will leave a pleasant 10 minute walk across the Thames to the ground.

THE GROUND & FACILITIES

A large development programme has been carried out at Culham Road to ensure that the ground will be up to Vauxhall-Opel League standard should Town gain promotion at the end of the current season. Floodlights were switched on last season, a hard walkway now goes all round the pitch, the present car park doubled in size, and a new stand is in the pipeline. The ground does already have covered accommodation along one side of the pitch, with a social club complex on the other side. The completely refurbished dressing rooms mean they are some of the best in non-league football.
A new club shop has been opened for 1988-89 season, and carries a wide range of non-league programmes. There are excellent catering facilities at the ground, with hot food being served throughout the match.



WHERE TO EAT & DRINK

There are plenty of eating and drinking establishm[ents] in Abingdon. In fact there are so many pubs that w[e] could not possibly list them here. There are some [...] pubs at least within ½ mile of the town centre. The [...] eating places in Abingdon range from Kebab Inns to Indian and Burger Bars, all in the town centre area. To go into the "Real" in more depth, Abingdon has it[s] own brewery, "Morlands" are there are plenty of thei[r] pubs in the town. There's also Halls, Morrells, Cour[age,] Scottish & Newcastle and Wadworth beers available.

PROGRAMME DETAILS

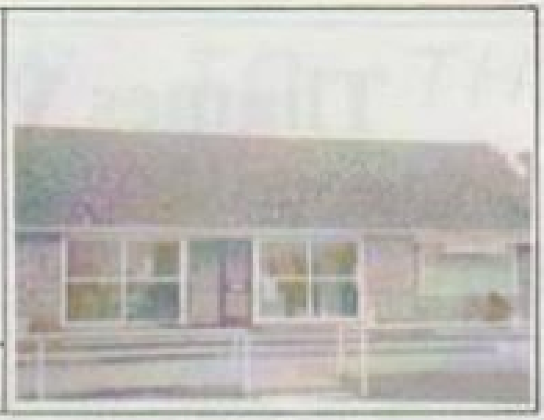
This season's 24-page programme is included with admission, and has a striking yellow and green card cover. Former Oxford City programme editor Andy Holden is in charge, and is a good effort. The team line-ups are on page 3, there is a general column, chairman's notes, club history, facts and figures, feature on the opposition, secretary's notes, a useful map of all the Spartan League clubs for the 1988-89 season, press cuttings and a League newsletter all crammed into its 24 pages. And with only five pages of advertising, it is particularly interesting.

GHM * RATING OUT OF 5 - ***

Top Left: Main Entrance.
Top Right: Dressing Rooms
Tea-Bar complex.

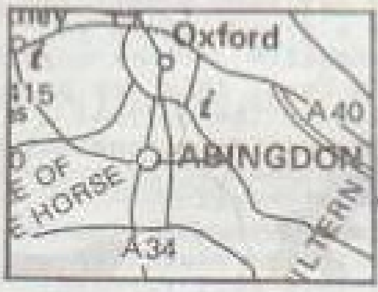
focus on ....
on Town

ps • Map • How to get there • Where to eat/drink

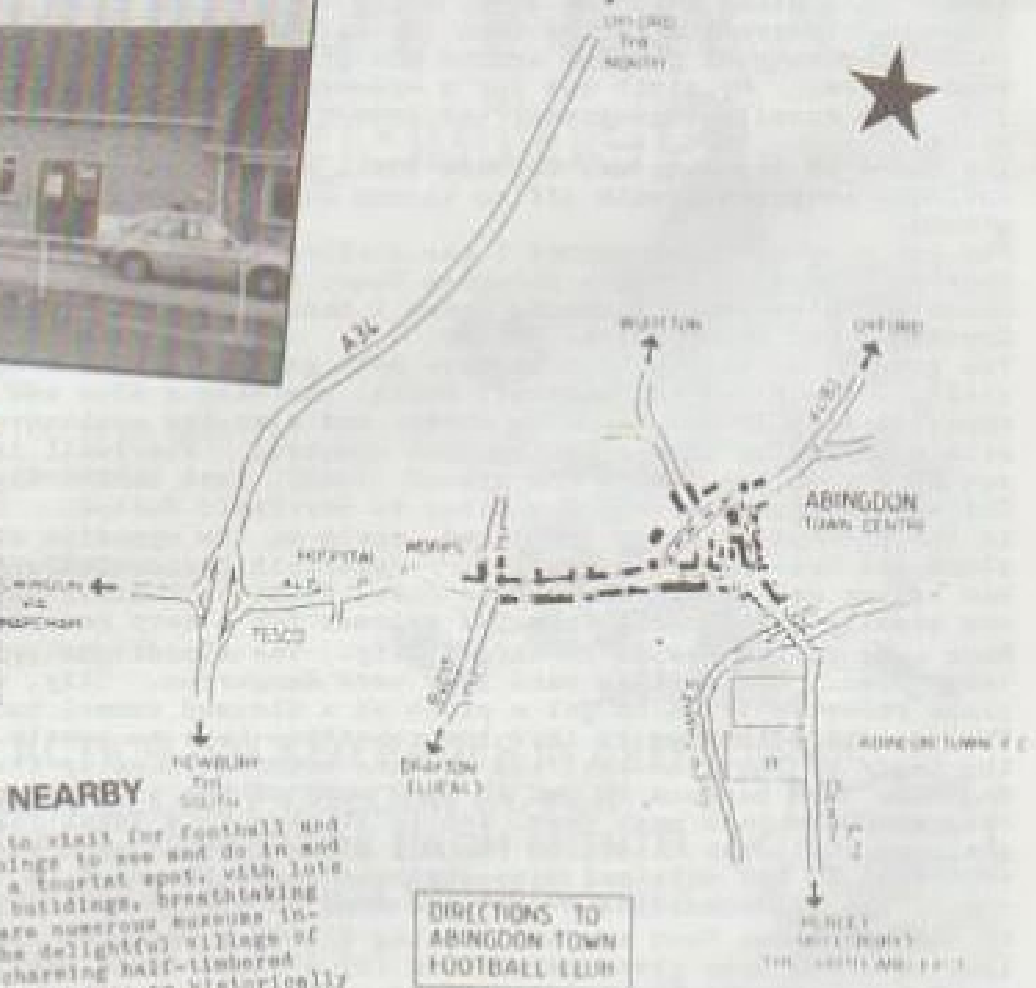




The Club House



MAP



PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

Abingdon is an excellent place to visit for football and also for the superb range of things to see and do in and around this area. It is quite a tourist spot, with lots of parks and gardens, historic buildings, breathtaking walks and views. Nearby there are numerous museums including the Pendon Museum in the delightful village of Long Wittenham, boasting some charming half-timbered houses and good pubs. Here, you can see an historically accurate miniature village and landscape scene of the 1930's, including a very extensive working model railway layout. The village of Sutton Courtenay, two miles to the southeast is considered one of the most attractive around Abingdon, and Didcot, 4 miles southeast has the Didcot Railway Centre, whose entrance is through the B.R. station on the northern edge of the town.
In Abingdon itself, on Nag's Head Island, you can hire a rowing boat by the hour from the Abingdon Boat Centre. There are plenty of grounds, gardens, tennis courts, golf and putting courses, and lots more in this interesting town.



Covered standing.

SUMMARY

With a choice of two clubs in this town (United and Town), and such a terrific place to visit for things to see and do (as well as having some of the finest pubs in Britain) Abingdon is well worth a visit. If you do early or late season, you may well consider staying a whole weekend to enjoy the atmosphere of this lovely part of England, when the weather is kind.

Thames Valley Round-Up

News and views from the Oxfordshire, Bucks, Berks and surrounding areas
With Andy Molden

Since my last notes I have managed to visit three new grounds and re-visit a few. The first new one was Waltham Abbey, which was the first Abingdon match where a programme was not issued. Also all the beer taps were serving lager! But on the plus side the beard pudding was meant to be excellent. On my visit most of the clubs' officials had gone on a week's holiday to Spain.

My second new ground was Wellington in the Western League. Wellington play in a public park along with the local rugby and cricket club. The ground has a clubhouse and covered terracing down one side with the rest of the ground being open. There is plenty of parking around the ground, which is only 200 yards from the town centre. My visit was for a mid-week match versus Larkhall, which ended 3-3. An excellent programme was issued, which was included with the admission price.

The third of the trio was Edgware Town, which appears to be disappearing under a building programme, with office blocks and flats encroaching onto the edge of the ground.

For you programme collectors I can confirm that the following are issuing in the Spartan League. They are Abingdon Town, Amersham Town, Cheshunt, Corinthian Casuals, Walthamstow Pennant, Crown & Manor, Southwark Borough, Brimsdown Rovers, Northwood and Beaconsfield United.

Two grounds quite near for me have both got new stands erected since my last visit. The first is Flackwell Heath, who have a nice new compact stand on the opposite side to the dressing rooms, and also the clubhouse has been modernized with a smart new lounge having been created. Flackwell is a ground where you can park your car inside the ground itself, just behind the goal.

The second ground with a new stand is Harefield United. In fact, this one is in the process of being completed, again on the opposite side to the current stand and dressing room complex. Harefield incidentally have an excellent tea bar (which has been nominated to Steve Pettit). Also, back copies of programmes can usually be acquired from the gateman for a very reasonable price.

More news on the demise of Oxford City. The floodlight pylons have now been taken down. The college said they were dangerous. City, with the committee in limbo recently tried to get a pitch at a disused school but this fell through. The present situation is that the committee have no assets, and these are still the hands of the vice-chairman who has been excluded by the new committee. He holds them because he had to foot most of the winding up bill. My bet is that they won't be back next year, and if it came to a legal fight, the old vice-chairman still has claims on the old title. What most people on the new committee forget is the original vice-chairman saved the club in 1986, and was the only one of the old committee to put his hand in his pocket!

My club Abingdon Town are now raising £1,000 a month on car boot sales. Also they have now been given permission for a stand to be erected, and this should start to appear in the next month or so.

My good friend Steve Hardy has bought out his A - Z of non-league programmes, an excellent in-depth look at last seasons issues. A copy can be obtained from Steve at £2.40 (including p&p) from 2 Higgs Close, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 9NB.

Next month I will bring you an up-to-date look at the Oxon Senior League plus other local leagues, including some Directory information.

NEWSDESK.....from page 4

ramme Club would like your help. They are issuing a sales list and offers li where all money raised will be sent to the fund. If you have any unwanted programmes you wish to donate, please send them to Ian Runham at 3 Tansley Cl Newton, West Kirby, Wirral, L48 9XH as soon as possible. For a sales list, please send Ian a large S.A.E....Bluesnews, the fanzine of CROYDON F.C. has twinned with Wasps Whispers, the fanzine of EAST GRINSTEAD in what is believe to be the first ever merger of two club magazines from the non-league scene. reason for the twinning is merely to help promote friendship among non-league followers. It does not involve the clubs themselves. They intend carrying n from each others clubs plus other articles. Bluesnews (now 12 pages with new cover and photo) is 20p + SAE from Chris Munns, Spring Place, St. Aubyns Clos Orpington, Kent, BR6 0SN, and Wasps Whispers (1st 1988-89 issue out on 5th No is 15p + SAE from Bruce Talbot, 16 Peverel Road, Ifield, Crawley, RH11 0TM.

LEAGUE DIRECTORY

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS, HOW TO GET THERE, PLUS OTHER INFORMATION

THIS MONTH: WILTSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE

Each month, we are bringing GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE readers a club-by-club listin from a different league, with useful information such as ground address, telephone numbers, whether programmes are issued, nearest railway stations, etc. We will be featuring in particular some of the less publicised leagues where information is not always readily available to groundhoppers.
This month, we are featuring the WILTSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE. We hope you will fin this guide useful when planning your trips to any of the clubs featured.

ALDBOURNE PARK : Ground: Farm Lane, Aldbourne. Colours: Light Blue. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr K Williams, 35 Birdbrook Road, Swindon, SN2 6RY. Tel: 0793 823430. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

AMESBURY TOWN : Ground: Recreation Ground, Amesbury. Colours: All Blue. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr R Rayfield, 6 Alanbrooke Close, Kitchener Road, Amesbury, SP4 7AE. Tel: 0980 23393. Nearest Railway Station: Salisbury.

AVEBURY : Ground: Avebury Sports Ground. Colours: Green. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr A V Blake, 38 Trusloe Houses, Avebury, Marlborough, SN8 1QZ. Tel: 06723 349. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

AVON (BRADFORD) : Ground: Trowbridge Road, Bradford-on-Avon. Colours: Green White. Programme: Yes. Hon. Sec: Mr C Lewis, 43 Tudor Drive, Trowbridge, BA14 7NA. Tel: 02214 67425. Nearest Railway Station: Bath.

BADBURY : Ground: Chiseldon Recreation Ground. Colours: Yellow & Blue. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr F W Smith, 18 Bucklebury Close, Stratton St. Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4JH. Tel: 0793 826532. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

BEMERTON ATHLETIC : Ground: South Wilts Sports Ground, Wilton Road, Salisbury Tel: 0722 27108. Colours: Black and White. Programme: Yes. Hon. Sec: Mr D J Heather, 31 Hollows Close, Salisbury, SP2 8JU. Tel: 0722 23600. Nearest Railway Station: Salisbury.

BIDDESTONE : Ground: Cuttle Lane, Biddestone. Colours: Green & White. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mrs B Short, 1 Hartham Lane, Biddestone, Chippenham, SN14 7EA. Tel: 0249 714724. Nearest Railway Station: Chippenham.

BLUNSDON UNITED : Ground: Sutton Park, Blunsdon. Colours: All Red. Programme No. Hon. Sec: Mr A J Hibbert, 23 Krain Street, Blunsdon, Swindon, SN2 4AA. Tel: 0793 721685. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

BROMHAM : Ground: Jubilee Sports Field, Bromham. Colours: Royal Blue. Programme: Yes. Hon. Sec: Mr B M Ramsay, 1 Highgrove Close, Calne, SN11 8NF. Tel: 0249 814653. Nearest Railway Station: Chippenham.

BURMAH HOUSE : Ground: Burmah House, Pipers Way, Swindon. Colours: Blue & Bla Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr S Cox, 17 Farrfield, Upper Stratton, Swindon, SN2 6QJ. Tel: 0793 827833. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

CALNE TOWN : Ground: Lickhill Road, Bremhill View, Calne. Colours: Blue & Whi Programme: Yes. Hon. Sec: Mr A J Brewer, 9 Fitzmaurice Square, Calne, SN11 8N Tel: 0249 815744. Nearest Railway Station: Chippenham.

CHIPPENHAM TOWN : Ground: Hardenhuish Park, Bristol Road, Chippenham. Colours All Blue. Programme: Yes. Hon. Sec: Mr A L Wimble, 31 Southmead, Chippenham SN14 ORT. Tel: 0249 655461. Nearest Railway Station: Chippenham.

CHISELDON : Ground: Chiseldon Recreation Ground. Colours: Blue & White strip Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr M Cox, 18 Butts Road, Chiseldon, Swindon, SN4 ONW Tel: 0793 740775. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

CORSHAM TOWN : Ground: Lacock Road, Corsham. Colours: Red. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mrs G A Walder, 15 Kings Avenue, Corsham, SN13 OEP. Tel: 0249 71354 Nearest Railway Station: Chippenham.

CRICKLADE TOWN : Ground: Cricklade Leisure Centre, Stone Lane, Cricklade. Colours: Navy Blue & White. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr J Saunders, 30 Fore Street, Ashton Keynes, Swindon, SN6 6NP. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

DEVIZES TOWN : Ground: Nursteed Road, Devizes. Tel: 0380 2817. Colours: Red & White. Programme: Yes. Hon. Sec: Mr D R Neate, 11 Downlands Road, Devizes SN10 5EA. Tel: 0380 71472. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

DORCAN : Ground: Dorcan School, St. Pauls Drive, Covingham, Swindon. Colours: Sky & Navy Blue. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr M A Creighton, 2 Wind ermere, Liden, Swindon, SN3 6JZ. Tel: 0793 643360. Nearest Railway Station Swindon.

DUNBAR SPORTS : Ground: Wills Sports Ground, Colbourne Street, Swindon. Colou Blue. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr J M Hayden, 44 Conisborough, Toothill, Swindon, SN5 8ES. Tel: 0793 46951. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

DUNBAR WILLS : Ground: Wills Sports Ground, Colbourne Street, Swindon. Colour Red & Black. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr A M Pickett, 78 Southbrook Street

Swindon, SN2 [illegible]. Tel: 0793 [illegible]. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

F.C. SPORTING : Ground: The Elisha Field, Drove Lane, Market Lavington. Colours: White. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr M L Spreadbury, 5 Rowan Close, Pinkneys Estate, Durrington, SP4 8DF. Tel: 0980 52170. Nearest Railway Station: Salisbury.

FERNDALE ATHLETIC : Ground: County Ground Extension, Swindon (Dressing Rooms Swindon Cricket Club). Colours: All Red. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr I E Sumbler, 77 Malvern Road, Swindon, SN2 1AU. Tel: 0793 643469. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

LAVERSTOCK & FORD : Ground: Laverstock Sports Ground, Church Road, Laverstock. Tel: 0722 27401. Colours: Black & White stripes. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr C R Hoskins, 'Forbra', 15 Church Road, Laverstock, Salisbury, SP1 1QX. Tel: 0722 28115. Nearest Railway Station: Salisbury.

MALMESBURY VICTORIA : Ground: Flying Monk Ground, Malmesbury. Colours: Black & White stripes. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mrs G A E Webb, 32 Burleaze, Chippenham, SN15 2AY. Tel: 0249 650565. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

MARLBOROUGH TOWN : Ground: Elcot Lane, Marlborough. Tel: 0672 53340. Colours: Claret & Blue. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr D W G Cripps, 62 Five Stiles Road, Marlborough, SN8 4BE. Tel: 0672 52741. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

MELKSHAM TOWN : The Conigre, Melksham. Colours: Yellow & Black stripes. Programme: Yes. Hon. Sec: Mr D G Phillips, 18 Malvern Close, Melksham, SN12 7RR. Tel: 0225 706904. Nearest Railway Station: Chippenham.

MINETY : Ground: Minety Playing Fields. Tel: 0666 860802. Colours: Jade & Blue. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr A Osborn, 15 Kitchener Street, Swindon, SN2 1EZ. Tel: 0793 28989. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

OAKSEY : Ground: Playing Field, Oaksey. Colours: Green. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr R H Jackson, 35 Bendy Bow, Oaksey, Malmesbury, SN16 9TN. Tel: 06667 697. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

OLDACRE : Ground: Penhill School, Cricklade Road, Swindon. Colours: All Blue. Programme: Yes. Hon. Sec: Mr I J Swindall, 26 Odstock Road, Penhill, Swindon, SN2 5JA. Tel: 0793 723189. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

OLD MANOR : Ground: Old Manor Sports Ground, Wilton Road, Salisbury. Colours: Blue & White. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr P Burden, 61 Hazel Close, Bemerton Heath, Salisbury, SP2 9JJ. Tel: 0722 24325. Nearest Railway Station: Salisbury.

PEWSEY VALE : Ground: Recreation Ground, Pewsey. Colours: Red & Blue stripes. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mrs B M Flippance, 17 Slater Road, Pewsey, SN9 5EE. Tel: 0672 63665. Nearest Railway Station: Pewsey.

PINEHURST : Ground: Pinehurst School Field, Beech Avenue, Swindon. Colours: Black & White. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr N J Merrett, 72 York Road, Swindon, SN1 2JU. Tel: 0793 39472. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

PLESSEY SEMICS : Ground: Plessey Sports Ground, Ermin Street, Stratton, Swindon. Colours: All Blue. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr G P Bennett, 15 Mellow Ground, Haydon Wick, Swindon, SN2 3QJ. Tel: 0793 726715. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

PLESSEY SPORTS : Ground: As Plessey Semics (above). Colours: All Blue. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr D Woodford, 106 Hathaway Road, Swindon, SN2 6PS. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

PURTON : Ground: Red House, Purton. Colours: Red & White. Programme: Yes. Hon. Sec: Mr A Eastwood, 36 Portal Road, Swindon, SN2 1PT. Tel: 0793 694036. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

RAMSBURY : Ground: Sports Field, West End, Ramsbury. Colours: Blue & White. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr R G Mills, 14 Swans Close, Ramsbury, Marlborough, SN8 2PH. Tel: 0672 20468. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

SANFORD YC : Ground: B.R. Sports Ground, Shrivenham Road, Swindon. Colours: Red & Black. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr J A Leeson, 25 Upham Road, Swindon, SN3 1DJ. Tel: 0793 695619. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

SHREWTON UNITED : Ground: Recreation Ground, Shrewton. Colours: Maroon & Blue. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mrs M Withers, Fleming Farm, Shrewton, Nr. Salisbury, SP3 4ER. Tel: 0980 620065. Nearest Railway Station: Salisbury.

SPARTANS : Ground: Anchor Road, Calne. Colours: Black & White. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr L R Fish, 41 North End, Calne, SN11 9DH. Tel: 0249 815605. Nearest Railway Station: Chippenham.

STRATTON RED EAGLES : Burderop Park, Wroughton. Colours: Red & White. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr R F Mortimer, 14 Crawley Avenue, Stratton St. Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4LB. Tel: 0793 825452. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

SUPERMARINE : Ground: Supermarine Sports & Social Club, Swindon. Colours: All Blue. Programme: Yes. Hon. Sec: Mr E Stott, 43 Stanier Street, Swindon, SN1 5QU. Tel: 0793 21301. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

TROWBRIDGE TOWN : Ground: Frome Road, Trowbridge. Tel: 02214 2076. Colours: Yellow & Black. Programme: Yes. Hon. Sec: Mrs V Baird, 6 Warminster Road, Bathampton, Bath, BA2 6SH. Tel: 0225 62769. Nearest Railway Station: Trowbridge.

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LEO'S LINES



A review of the interesting non-league stories during the past month . . . by LEO HOENIG

A busy start to the month, with FACup replays in the first week, plus the first round of the PILoC Cup (which by the end of this article, like the good toady I am, will be referred to under it's new sponsorship name of the Clubcall Cup). But starting with the FA Cup, where the best replay result was supplied by Warrington Town (Bass NWC), ousting Rhyl (NPL-P) by 2-0. The West Country showdown between Saltash United and Falmouth went in the Great Mills Western League clubs favour by an emphatic 5-0 margin, while cock-up of the week saw all the papers, and even the FA report a victory for Feltham (by 4-3) at Kingstonians. In fact all Feltham's goals were fictituous, and Kings won by 3-0. The PILoC, meanwhile had more than enough 'surprise' results, with Bangor City putting four past Altrincham, Bishops Stortford winning by the odd goal in seven at Enfield and Leytonstone /Ilford defeating Welling United. I would choose two of the first weeks batch as worthy of extra note. On the Tuesday, struggling and managerless Cheltenham Town travelled to unbeaten BHL side Dorchester and came back with a 3-0 win; and the following they, and not far away, the action boiled over into farce. Yeovil To[illegible] we[illegible] playing Newport County, and Yeovil had Andy Wallace sent off after only 11 minutes - despite this they were 2-0 up at the break, and three minutes later [illegible] numbers were made even when Glynne Millett suffered a second booking. Yeovil eve[illegible] [illegible]rsed a penalty before Paul Randall put them 3-0 up, and despite Chris P[illegible] [illegible]ulling one back seventeen minutes from time, Yeovil were cruising it until Gerry Pearson was dismissed (again second booking) eight minutes from time, and Dave Abbruzzese and Paul Sanderson took the match into extra-time. A minute into the extra-time Randall scored to restore Yeovil's lead, but this was short-lived as Sanderson levelled the scores again. There were now just two sendings off to go, as Steve Rutter (Yeovil) and Jamie King (Newport) were sent to the crowded early bath, while Chris Banks was left on the pitch to score a winner for Newport.

Onto Saturday 8th, and the relative quiet of the FA Vase, and for me the search through the results for surprises - does Dunston FB (Vaux Wearside) beating Lancaster City (NPL-1) by 2-0 count, yes I think so, but what is the position when Ponteland United (North All) beat Pickering Town (NCE-2) by 1-0 (no surprise I think), and what about Vaux Wearside v Skol Northern, can I honestly call Annfield Plain's 2-0 win at West Auckland a shock (perhaps not, but a fine result nether-the-less). Still I will happilly record a few defeats for the Bass NWC, with Newton going down 2-0 at Poulton Vics (W Ches), and Daisy Hill suffering a 2-1 home loss to General Chemicals (W Ches). Eastwards, the CML scored some notable victories over NCE sides, with Staveley beatin Long Eaton United (NCE-P), Melton winning at Grimethorpe (NCE-P) and Louth easily getting the better of Sheffield (NCE-1), but this was countered as Eccleshill (NCE-1) won 4-0 at Boston, and Immingham Town (NCE-1) defeated Oakham 1-0 in a replay (all CML sides from the 'Supreme' division). Best results from the region saw Stapenhill (Leics) win by 5-0 at Armthorpe Welfare (NCE-P) and Maltby MW (NCE-1) gain a 1-0 victory over Sutton Town (NPL-1). In the Midlands, Paget Rangers (W Mids) go the better by 2-1 in a replay of Mile Oak (BHL-M), while Spalding United (BHL-M) fell at home to Solihull (Mid Comb), also 2-1, and Desborough (NG UCL) defeated Ashtree Highfield (BHL-M) by 5-4, after extra time. No real surprises in the East, but plenty of excitement, methinks, for the supporters of Brantham Athletic and Ely City (both Jewson Eastern-P), they shared 10 goals at Brantham, before Ely won by 4-2 at home. No further progress for Herts County League sides with Wingate going down 4-0 at Maidenhead (VOL-2s), and London Colney losing at home to Baldock Town (BHL-S), but sucess for S Midlands League clubs, notably the 61, for a 2-1 win at Hornchurch (VOL-2n), and Milton Keynes Borough, 1-0 victors over Clapton (VOL-2n), while for the Green King SPartan League Northwood and Amersham had 2-0 wins respectively over Letchworth GC and Rainham Town (both VOL-2n). Further South, Eastbourne Town (SX) defeated Egham Town (VOL 2s) in a replay, while another Sussex side, Burgess Hill scored the goal required to knock out Canterbury City (BHL-S). Old Salesians went down in a replay to Wandsworth & Norwood (Spartan) but the AFA are still represented by West Whickham who defeated Merstham (Dan-Air/Comb Co) by 2-0. No further pre[illegible] progress for Guernsey side Vale Recreation, who lost 7-4 at Clanfield (FHL Hellenic). So ending the round up in the West, where a couple of Gloucestershire County side, Harrow Hill, and Lawrence Weston Hallen (in an away replay), got the better of Great Mills Western opposition, notably Clandown and Swanage Town

Some movement on the managerial fronts in the Midlands, [illegible] the lead Boldmere St Michael's fine start in the Midland Combination, (nine matches without droppong a point, or even conceding a goal), taking over at Halesowen Town, while Nuneaton Borough promote Kirk Stephens from caretaker. Boldmere meanwhile appointed Alan Parsons, former assistant to John Morris as their manager. Parson's is a former manager of another of his local clubs, Sutton Coldfield. Meanwhile the Midlands merry-go-round for managers moves on with Hednesford Town struggling and without a victory in the BHL, sacking Bob Wickett, and immediately appointing Paddy Page, who had spent best part of three weeks out of the game since leaving Halesowen in the previous month. Further south, a team still to appoint a manager is Dagenham, but there has been such a improvement in their results since Joe Dunwell changed his title from caretaker assistant to caretaker, following Dave Wood's departure that he may be a candidate for the VOL's manager of the month award. Dunwell has stated he does not want the job permanantly.

The FA Cup third qualifying round bought defeat to two members of the GM Vauxhall Conference on their own grounds, with Barnet falling at home to a 55th minute goal by Nicky Crown, the Grays Athletic striker. However this was nothing to the drama as Boston United contrived to lose at home to Hinckley Town of the Banks' West Midlands League. Chris Cook and Paul Wilson had set Boston on their way to what they thought would be another big score, but then Hinckley gained a penalty, converted by John Lane, and three minutes later Andy Massey put the tie level. Boston regained the lead just before half time, but this was short lived as Massey again stepped in to level the scores before the break, and just after the hour Massey completed his hat-trick and sent Hinckley Town through. This round seemed to be the most difficult so far for the GMVC, as for the first time, clubs from the Premier League were involved in replays - this involved Northwich Victoria, held at Hyde, but winning at home by 3-0, and both Stafford Rangers and Fisher Athletic were held 1-1 at home, by Leicester United (BHL-P) and Kingstonians (VOL-P) respectively - both GMVC clubs got through in their replays. Elsewhere the form book shone through most of the Saturday's results, and even Sudbury Town's fine win at Leyton-Wingate was not entirely unexpected, but there were several interesting replays. I use the word 'interesting' deliberately, as only one more result, Whitehawk (Sussex) winning 1-0 against Windsor & Eton (VOL-P) counts as a shock. Meanwhile Moor Green (BHL-P) scored six at Tamworth (BHL-M), while conceding four, while Emley (NCE) and Fleetwood Town (NPL-P) had a second 2-2 draw. I saw Bromley (VOL-P) edged out at Crawley Town (BHL-P) by a goal in the opening seconds of extra-time. Down on the South Coast, Worcester City won at Dorchester in an all BHL clash, while Exmouth won the all Great Mills Western League battle, with a victory over Saltash, which these days is a rare victory for Devon over Cornwall.

The FA Trophy came back to the fore on the 22nd on the month, and not without incident, with three results showing the power in the lower divisions of the BHL. Grantham played Premier Division Alvechurch, and after a 1-1 draw at home, won the away match by 1-0, while another Midland division club, Atherstone had a simpler 4-1 victory over Bedworth. To keep the Southern Divison in the frame, Gravesend & Northfleet, who I saw in their second replay victory over Bognor (VOL-P) in the previous round, now won by 1-0 at Barking (again VOL-P), while on a similar theme, Farnborough Town (VOL-P) lost at home to Wivenhoe Town (VOL-1).

Mid-week saw the second round of the PILoC Cup, now official named after it's sponsors from Clubcall. The second round was held up in part not just by FA Trophy replays, but also by outstanding first round ties, as a result of which, only nine of the scheduled 16 ties got played. If the competition is to continue, it must be better thought through in future, which I think means less ties in the early part of the season. Meanwhile one or two of the results should be worthy of note, and would certainly get more attention had they happened in other national competitions. Chorley and Morecambe drew 2-2 in a replayed first round tie, with the NPL side going through, on account of away goals, as the firs match had been 0-0, while the most notable second round result saw the first winners of the competition in it's present form, Kettering Town go down 3-0 at Leytonstone /Ilford (VOL-P).

Incidently, backtracking a little, on the 22nd, I saw Salford defeat St Helens Town by 1-0 in a Raab Karcher (Bass NWC) League Cup tie. At this match I met a member of the League's management committee, and took some stick for my comments about that league in last month's issue. But look at this official's record. He did not arrive at the ground until nearly half-time, and then spent more of his time looking at various magazines I was carrying then the match, and when I tried to discuss the state of play, he was patently uninterested, especially as I was trying to compliment the home team's defence, which means that Salford are no longer the whipping boys of the NWC. I also made the mistake of complimenting the fine Salford ground, situated in a pleasant residential area just off the Bury Road, north of Manchester. It is entirely enclosed, and has paving all around, adequate parking, and space to expand if and when they want too. There is a fairly old concrete and plaster stand, that looks a little art-deco, but without the art, and has recently had some effort spent on repairing the roof

Continued on page 23

MY 10 FAVOURITE GROUNDS
VISITED IN NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

This month: IAN McNABB of DAGENHAM, Essex.

Keep your "10 Favourite Non-League Grounds" articles coming in. Just write to us at the usual magazine address. This month, it is the turn of Ian McNabb of Dagenham, Essex, who tells us about his choice, and why he selected them.

1. BECCLES : A real delight, and quite the most picturesque ground I have ever seen. Access to the ground can be gained directly from the old train station, which lies alongside and is on the Ipswich to Lowestoft line. Pass over the iron footbridge and through a gap in the hedge on the right and you are in College Meadow. A lengthy stand runs along one side neatly painted in club colours of black and white, with "Beccles F.C." on top. There are numerous ol buildings, including old nissan huts which give the ground a real wartime touch Rregular glossy programme issuers too.

2. CROMER TOWN : Another really old fashioned ground which seems to have change very little since their days in the Eastern Counties League before the war. A large wooden grandstand nestles amongst the trees along one side, with the club name painted largely on the rear wall. The friendly welcome and regular programme from this sleepy part of Norfolk have ensured my return on several occasi

3. ACCRINGTON STANLEY : Included for purely nostalgic reasons. It's wonderful see new faces putting this old name back on the map. Everyone at Stanley take great pride in their side and each time I've visited the Crown Ground they seem to be making further improvements. The "Peel Park" pub opposite the old Stanle ground can be recommended for a friendly drink.

4. BRAINTREE TOWN : Quite the friendliest ground I have ever visited, and the locals really seem to love their football in Braintree. There are remains of the old Crittall Athletic grandstand on one side, cover for 300 opposite, and further cover behind the goal where the partisan home support make as much nois as any other non-league crowd I've seen - and certainly more than their neighbours Chelmsford City. Braintree's exploits in the programme field are legend and they now have an excellent club shop too, with a wider variety of programme on display than most others. Floodlit matches are particularly recommended.

5. CHINGFORD : Sadly this club folded up during the summer. Although the facilities were spartan to say the least, with a very small terraced shelter behind one goal and nothing but uneven grass banking on either side. I always got an impression that the ground had seen far better days. Once Southern Leaguers Chingford Town played here and they had planned to build a large grandstand before going bust. Also very picturesque, with a unique entrance.

6. PORTLAND UNITED : A quite astonishing ground for a Dorset Combination side, which would grace the Great Mills League. Spacious wooden grandstand on one side, with a neat clubhouse alongside, covered terracing behind one goal and a sturdy concrete cover on the far side. . The ground is enclosed by a wall made from Portland stone, and also boasts a flagpole, as well as attractive program

7. ST. NEOTS TOWN : This is a fine old fashioned Eastern Counties League style ground. There is covered terracing all the way along one side, interrupted by the clubhouse and changing rooms in the middle. The upper part of this used t be a seated grandstand, until it was bricked up to form a bar. From the side you can see where this was done, and the roof still slopes like a stand. On th far side there is a 400-seater old wooden stand, in need of a little attention

8. WEST END UNITED : Sadly this Colchester based club are no longer with us, merging with Woods Athletic of the Essex & Suffolk Border League some years ag to become Woods West End. They used to play on the Garrison Ground, particula interesting for having two full sides of smart concrete terracing with the upper steps being at ground level and the pitch itself in a hollow. Very unus

9. DULWICH HAMLET : Almost one of the last of the "old" London grounds, which remains untouched. You can stand on the huge cinder terraces at either end and imagine Dulwich playing in exactly the same conditions 40 years earlier. A crying shame that this club aren't in the Conference.

10. SNOWDOWN COLLIERY WELFARE : A surprise to some old time supporters, I suppose, that this club are still going. They now play in the reserve section of the Kent League. The terracing behind one goal and cover have now been demolished, and most of the terracing that runs the length of the clubhouse side no lies uncovered. Still, the club struggle on, however. Visits to this once great club always remind me of their glory years in the 50's and 60's.

SPOT the GROUND

— COMPETITION —

UP TO £100 can be won

Last month's competition was reasonably well received, with most getting the answer correct, so the £5 is again won (it has gone every time so far). The correct answer was, of course, GLOUCESTER CITY, with the false clue being No.6 as they have never reached the final of the FA Trophy at Wembley.
And the lucky winner this month is:- DAVID GORTON, 15 OAK CRESCENT, TIVIDALE, WEST MIDLANDS, B69 1RL. Well done David, your £5 prize will be on its way to you in the next few days. Incidentally, we have received quite a number of entries on postcards but the sender has forgotten to include name and address. Please remember to include these details with your entries. Incidentally, thank you to the reader who kindly pointed out that last month we gave the answer as Workington Town when it should have been just Workington, as Town are a Rugby League club. It's nice to know people are reading our competition page!
In case there are people who still do not know the rules of the competition, it is extremely easy to enter. Just study the two photos below of a non-league ground, and the six clues that go with them. Using your judgement and general knowledge of non-league football, work out which ground is featured. But please remember: one of the six clues is a red herring and has been thrown in to trick you. Please make sure your entry reaches us no later than Friday 25th November. Send your entry to:- *SPOT THE GROUND COMPETITION, GAME No.6, GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE, 439 MERTON ROAD, WANDSWORTH, LONDON, SW18 5LB.*
All correct entries will be placed in a hat and a winner drawn by the Editor on Saturday 26th November. Answer and winner (if any) announced in the January 1989 issue. There will be a brand new "Spot the Ground" competition next month. And as a bonus, next month's special CHRISTMAS ISSUE will also contain a giant quiz and competition where you have the chance to win the magnificent new book due to be published shortly called "Non-League Grounds of Great Britain" which could be worth nearly £20. See next month's christmas special for full details.



Game 6

Here are your SIX clues as to which club is featured this month. But remember - one of these clues is not true. Good luck!

1). This north-west club are 245 miles from London.
2). They play at -------- Road, which is just a 3 minute walk from the station.
3). Club colours are blue and white for first-team matches.
4). The club have reached this season's 4th Qualifying Round of the F.A.Cup for the first time in their history.
5). They were losing F.A.Vase semi-finalists in the mid-1980's.
6). This club has one of the best club shops in non-league football.

Worked it out yet? If so, make sure those entries reach us by 25th November at the latest. If you prefer, you can write your answer on the back of a sealed envelope or postcard and sent it in to us, but include your name and address.



Richard Huxford goes close for Matlock Town in their 2-0 defeat at Shepshed Charterhouse on 29.8.88. *Photo: Jeremy Taylor.*



Fakenham Town 'keeper Paul Dungol punches clear from the head of Downham's Steve Hipkin in a Jewson Eastern League Cup tie which ended 1-1 aet. *Photo: Leo Koenig.*

GROUND-HOPPER Magazine



Action from the South Midlands Division One as Welwyn Garden Utd beat Ashcroft 3-2 at home. *Photo: Leo Koenig.*



Central Regional League Cup action from Yoker Athletic during the 2-0 home win over Petershill. *Photo: Leo Koenig.*

TARTAN TRAVELS

with Raymond Jarvie

Due to holidays are Hearts matches, I hadn't visited a new ground in Scotland since my trip to Forres at the start of the season. So on the last Saturday in September I set about putting that right. A friend told me that Ardrossan Winton Rovers were worth a visit. Luckily they were at home that day and, even better, they were issuing their first programme of the season. The drive to Ardrossan, which is situated on the coast about 20 miles north of Ayr, took longer than we thought, and after a couple of wrong turnings arrived at Winton Park about ten to three. The ground was indeed impressive with a 250 seater stand towering over the pitch. Behind one goal there is covered terracing with grass banking on the other two sides. Mr. Morrison, their extremely helpful secretary, met us on arrival and chatted to us about the history of the club and how, after the war, the committee turned the pitch round 90° and gradually built up the ground. He also invited us back to the pavilion for after match refreshment which we gratefully accepted. He shouted to one of the ladies serving the teas that "these chaps are visiting all the non-league grounds in Scotland and its our turn today!" Any hoppers visiting Ardrossan should ask for Mr. Morrison, who will be delighted to meet you. The match itself - v. Cumnock, Ayrshire League Div. 1 - was quite entertaining. A scoreless first period was followed by four second half goals, with the visitors scraping a draw with a last minute penalty.

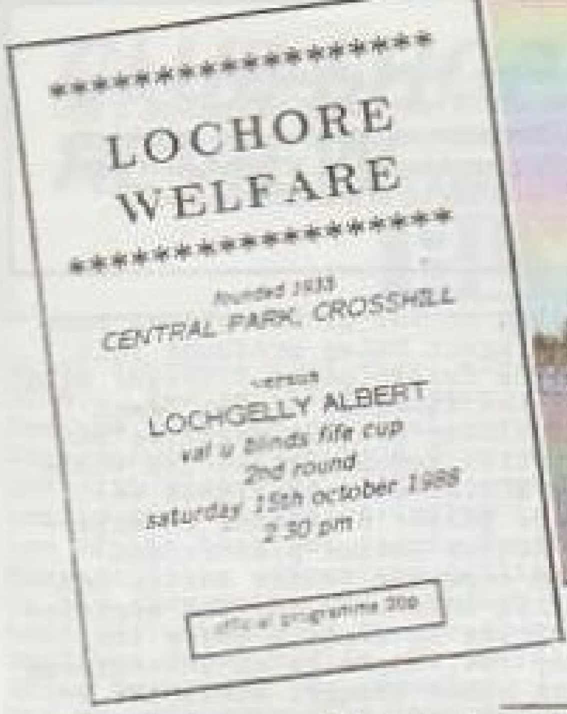




ABOVE: Ardrossan Winton Rovers ground at Winton Park.

Finding a programme issuing club in Fife is about as rare as an England goal (Watch it, Mr. Jarvie! - Ed), so when news filtered through of an issue at Lochor Welfare, I decided to make the short trip over the River Forth. The club actuall play in the village of Crosshill about ½ mile from Lochore, which itself is about 10 miles NE of Cowdenbeath. I met programme editor Jim Barnes at the gate. Jim is a real enthusiast who decided to introduce a programme because he feels, quite correctly, that all clubs should make an effort to issue something. Unfortunately this has not caught on with the locals.

I arrived before most of the crowd - which was a disappointing 60, considering the visitors were Lochgelly Albert, 4 miles away - and saw most ignore Jim's request to buy a programme. He probably only sold about 20. However this was a great deal better than a recent match against Thornton, when the attendance was just 5!! Central Park has no cover or terracing, just grass banking all


****

LOCHORE WELFARE

****

founded 1933
CENTRAL PARK, CROSSHILL

versus
LOCHGELLY ALBERT
val u blinds fife cup
2nd round
saturday 15th october 1988
2.30 pm

official programme 30p



Seaham Red Star's Town Park ground.

the way round. The pitch is bumpy and uneven, and from the pavilion end it is impossible to see the ball at the far end because of the dip. Lochore is in the middle of the now defunct Central Fife coalfield and there are many relics around to remind you of this.
I cannot finish this month's travels without mentioning my trip to Seaham Red Star. From time to time I make the odd trip to the North East and the pairing of Seaham and Accrington Stanley in the FA Cup caught my eye. I travelled to Seaham by train, changing at Newcastle, and walked the mile or soup the hill to the Town Park. After buying my programme I popped into the local pub where I met a group of Accrington fans including the redoubtable Mrs Ruth Chadwick who runs the club shop at Crown Meadow. After some friendly persuasion I purchased a badge and some programmes and joined the Stanley fans to watch the game. It finished in a forgettable 0-0 draw but I enjoyed the company of the Accrington crowd. After the match we were all invited back to another pub, who were the match sponsors, for a buffet. I was given a strange North East delicacy, a bowl of soup with a large doughball or dumpling in the middle of it! It tasted OK though. My day was completed with the offer of a lift back to the station from the Seaham Chairman, who had heard of groundhoppers but had not actually met any up till then. Another club a bit off the beaten track but well worth the journey.
Back next month with news of a hopping trip to Holland.

LEO'S LINES - continued from page 17

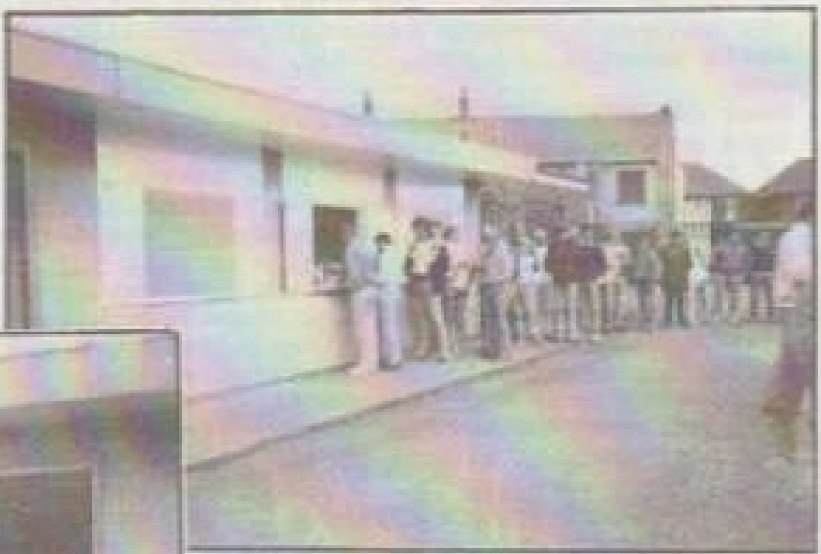
(although as the weather was dry, I did not get to test this). Still it transpired that at least one member of the management committee would like to see the club removed from the top division, as they only have one area of cover! This same person told me that the league did not expel clubs, but that they ruled themselves out - try saying that at Whitworth Valley!
My final piece of news for this piece, concerns Haringey Borough FC - as you may well be aware, they were finally expelled from the Vauxhall-Opel League towards the end of October. The reasons given were that the club had not yet registered any players, or played any matches this season. The news was not a surprise, but still the press release grated a little in my mind. After all, Haringey have been suspended, and therefore incapable of playing any matches, and while this was the case, were they really expected to start signing on players - so to what extent did the Vauxhall-Opel League contribute to the demise of one of their own clubs ?

LEO HOENIG.

CLUB SHOP REVIEW THIS MONTH: BLYTH SP.

NO. 3

Blyth Spartans club shop, along with the snack bar, is run by the Supporters Club. Now in its 41st year, the Supporters Club started from very humble beginnings with the original shop and HQ being a small wooden hut. This was then superceded in 1976 by a purpose-built brick building which combines a snack bar and club shop etc. After numerous improvements to kitchen equipment and ground public address system (which is operated from the club shop) it is now considered one of the best set-ups in Northern non-league football.
Many visiting supporters calling at Croft Park comment on the football pennants on the shop wall, and although not for sale, they probably represent one of the best collections in the local area. This collection is mainly the work of vice-chairman Tommy Hedley who travels the world with his job and always manages to bring back some new memento.
The souvenirs on sale vary from club badges, hats, scarves etc, but perhaps the best sellers are the Spartans official sweaters which are bottle green with the club motif. These are sold throughout the world, such is the club fame due to past cup exploits. The souvenirs can be seen and inspected from a covered area



RIGHT: Long queues form at the Blyth Spartans Club Shop & Tea Bar.



LEFT: Another view of the complex at Blyth Spartans F.C.

outside the club shop, but access is also available inside the shop for football programmes. Most are non-league, where a good exchange service is encouraged with other clubs. The surplus Spartans programmes are arranged on shelves with the others in boxes. The Supporters Club also print the programme in addition to running the shop and snack bar. In addition, they run two coaches to some away games, but normally just the one coach, with a return fare of just £2 to most games.
The club shop doesn't actually have a shop manager as such, but Club Secretary Ronnie Clark has done excellent work for the club and shop over the years. He is usually found running the shop on matchdays, so allowing the other committee members to sell programmes around the ground and social club.
Anyone visiting Croft Park for the first time should have no problem in finding the club shop. It is in an open area to the left hand side of the main stand facing the pitch.

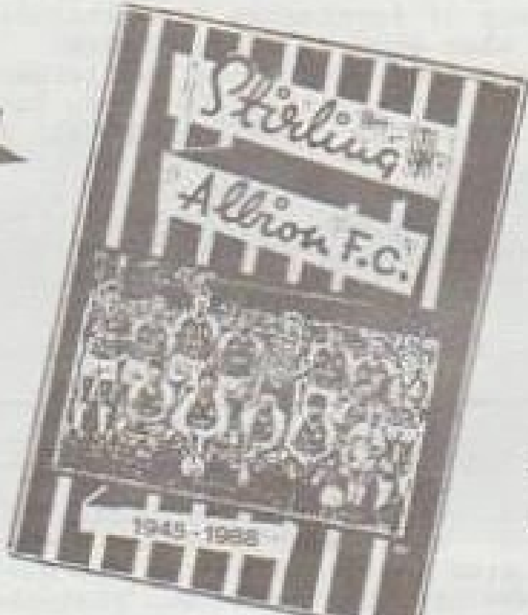
* *INFORMATION KINDLY SUPPLIED BY PETER B. HINDMARCH, ASS. SECRETARY, B.S.S.C.*

NON-LEAGUE BOOKSHELF

Each month we review books, magazines, handbooks, or any publication with a non-league connection. If you would like **your** publication reviewed on this page please write to: Groundhopper Magazine, 439 Merton Road, Wandsworth, London SW18 5LB enclosing a copy.

The Sutton United Supporters' Club magazine TOUCHLINER is one of the oldest publications of its kind in non-league football, and is again being produced this season. The first issue for 1988-89 is priced at 40p for 16 pages + cover, with quite a good yellow card cover showing a drawing of the stand at Gander Green Lane printed in brown. This season, the large and clumsy A4 size magazine has been replaced by a sensible A5 size (ie: GHM size) which somehow gives the whole booklet a neater look. There are some interesting articles in the issue we reviewed, including "From the Terrace" by Mark Frake, Editor's column, an entertaining report on the annual cricket match between Sutton United players and supporters which was held in July. Julie Tunney, the reporter on the Sutton Herald newspaper talks to player Ian Rondeau in a special interview for the magazine and then comes "Supporters' Forum where Chris Ball tries to explain where the money has gone from last season's magnificent FA Cup run, there is an interesting diary column from Nigel Dampstart who talks, amongst other things, about the club's trip to Jersey, printers errors and the sexuality of the match secretary! Next up is "Life as a Football Widow" with players other halves talking about the lonliness of being married to footballers, followed by a Youth Team report and a look back on programmes from previous years. Finally comes "The Man in Black", the average soccer tribesman's guide to referees.
Overall, the articles were well written and many quite amusing. The Editors obviously go to a lot of trouble to track down a number of contribuors, all of which help to make this one of the more interesting of non-league club magazines.





STIRLING ALBION F.C. - 1945-1988 contains 92 pages, softbound, illustrated throughout, and is compiled and written by Allan Grieve and John Turnbull. It has a complete record of Stirling Albion FC since their formation in 1945, and contains details of every match, competitive and friendly played by the club. It also contains information about every player ever signed by the club. There is a foreword by Aberdeen manager Alex Smith, and the 92 pages are crammed with statistical data, photographs and information. The glossy cover has a striking red, white and black design and particularly interesting are old press cuttings and photographs from the earlier years in the clubs' history. The compilers are to be congratulated in putting in so much time and effort in producing a fine club history in paperback form. It is typed throughout. The compilers are both supporters of Stirling Albion F.C. and co-edit the club programme "Annfield News". Allan Grieve is a school teacher, and John Turnbull is a student. Copies are £3, plus 50p for postage and packaging from:- Allan Grieve, 11 Queen Street, Stirling, FK8 1HL.



HOPPER POST

The LETTER OF THE MONTH now earns the sender a 'Groundhopper Magazine' notebook and a set of six coasters in presentation box.

*

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE *YOUR* SAY.

What do you think of the magazine? Do you have any amusing groundhopper tales? Do you have any comments about Non-League Football in general? *Write to:*

Hopper Post,
Groundhopper Magazine,
439 Merton Road,
Wandsworth SW18 5LB

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,
I think that clubs should not have to have floodlights before entering the F.A. Cup. If those sort of restrictions were brought in I wonder how long it would be before someone wanted to ban clubs who wouldn't be allowed to stage a match against Football League clubs for safety reasons? One way to avoid midweek early kick-offs would be to do what Glossop did for an FA Trophy replay with Workington two seasons ago. They played the next day (Sunday).
JOHN HAYDOCK, 15 HAYDOCK AVENUE, LEYLAND, PRESTON, PR5 1PS, LANCASHIRE.

- -

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,
I do not feel that floodlights should be a prerequisite for entry into the F.A. Cup. I can see that floodlights are relevant as a criteria for membership of leagues at a certain level of football, because league programmes may assume a certain number of midweek matches. To bar clubs from the cup, because of the possibility of any replay having to kick off early, would be contrary to the spirit of the cup. Any club which can take a gate should be allowed to enter the nations' premier knockout competition.
DAVID COLLINS, 67 HEOL UCHAF, RHIWBINA, CARDIFF, CF4 6SR, WALES.

- -

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,
This season I have joined the committee of Colwyn Bay FC who play in Division One of the Bass North West Counties League.
We haven't got floodlights but believe me, it is not for the want of trying. We have a floodlight fund so hopefully one day in the not too distant future we will be able to have lights installed. As for the chairman of Barking FC - well, as far as I am concerned, his attitude smacks of arrogance that the non-league scene can well do without. Clubs should be allowed in the FA Cup with or without lights. Maybe I'm a sentimentalist, but all aspects of the FA Cup fascinate me including clubs without floodlights.
If Barking ever had to come to Colwyn Bay for a cup replay, we'd give them a warm welcome, especially Mr. Redfern even if the kick off was at 5.15pm.
DERRICK ORME, 15 FFORDD TRIBAN, COLWYN BAY, CLWYD, LL28 5YY.

- -

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,
First of all (before the moaning), congratulations on the magazine. I think the merger with the Groundhoppers Club will be of benefit to all groundhoppers.
Now for the moaning. I recently purchased issues 9 and 10 of GHM. In issue 10 on Steve King's comment I was surprised at his outburst on violence in football. While in no way do I condone violence and in some of his statements I agree with what he said. I was though surprised at his reference to a riot after the game between Chelsea and Middlesbrough. A report of the incident in the national newsletter of the FSA said, "After the final whistle about 30 Boro' fans got on the pitch and began celebrating. Meanwhile at the other end at the Shed, Chelsea fans began pouring onto the pitch through two gates in the fencing which was open There was only a small police presence inside the ground and they appeared free to run to the other end. Arriving there, some threw missiles at the opposing fans. After a while about six policemen began to shepherd the Chelsea fans back to the other end. There was no actual fighting on the pitch as the Boro fans were back behind the fence before the Chelsea fans had arrived".
I am pointing this out to show there wasn't a riot, otherwise six policeman would not be able to control them.
BILLY WHEATCROFT, 25 KENLY, GLOUCESTER ROAD, TOTTENHAM, LONDON, N17 6LS.

- -

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,
I am writing in response to Richard Crabtree's article in October's GHM concerning possible trips to Europe with fellow groundhoppers.
I fully support his idea and believe it might help change the European's stereotyped image of the English football fan.

HOPPER POST (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26)

I would call myself a "continental groundhopper" as I spend a lot of time visiting foreign grounds. I still watch a lot of English football as it would work out very expensive if I were to travel abroad every week. I always thought there was nothing to beat English football. However in recent years my views have changed and I now feel that a lot of European football is much more skillful and entertaining.
Perhaps a continental branch of the Groundhoppers' Club could be formed, and weekends on the continent arranged. I'm sure those that have not previously visited continental stadia would soon realise that this is a very interesting aspect of groundhopping.
NICK BRADLEY, SERRAYLE LODGE, DILLYWOOD LANE, HIGHAM, ROCHESTER, KENT.

- -

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,
I feel that my son and I may have established some sort of a record. Together we attended matches on two consecutive evenings, which were both abandoned due to floodlight failure. On Tuesday 4th October, we went along to Uxbridge where my son was linesman in the V.O.L. Division 1 match v. Metropolitan Police. The lights went out just before kick-off and the start of the match was delayed for almost an hour. Then two minutes after half-time darkness descended for good. Then the following evening we went to see Tring Town play Clapton in the V.O.L. Division 2 North. After finishing off our fish and chip tea in the clubs' car park, while making jokes about the lights going out again, we entered the ground, and guess what?......the lights went out!!!
Illumination was restored, the teams and officials took the field, the referee blew his whistle to summon the captains for the toss and simultaneously the lights went out again!
The teams trooped off, and after one other unsuccessful attempt to keep the lights burning, the game eventually started 45 minutes late. It was developing into quite an exciting match, with a near miss at both ends when, after 3½ minutes play....the lights went out for the last time that evening.
Before the V.O.L. decide to ban us from their future matches, I would like to point out that neither of us have ever had such an experience even once before, during many years of involvement with football.
JIM TAYLOR, 155 SYON LANE, OSTERLEY, MIDDLESEX, TW7 5PZ.

- -

£5 MONTHLY DRAW

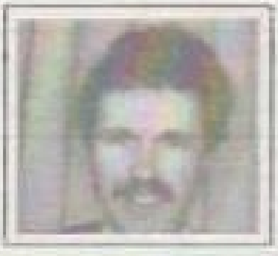
This month's Groundhoppers Club £5 cash prize winner is:- *Dave Boyes, 28 Queens Walk, Ossett, Wakefield, W.Yorks, WF5 0NL. Member No.30.*

THIS MONTH'S COVER

This month's front cover photograph is of the stand at Vauxhall-Opel League club CROYDON F.C. This impressive stand is one of the best in the VOL. *Photo: D R West.*

BADGERS SET





with TOBY JACKSON

Welcome back to BADGERS SET where this month I shall complete my review of badges on offer in the Vauxhall-Opel League with a look at the selection from clubs in Division Two South.





When in the position of having a Chairman who produces badges, it is no wonder that a smart enamel badge could be found at Banstead Athletic. However, since Malcolm Baker relinquished his Chairmanship at Merland Rise, nothing new has been produced although the Surrey club currently quote in the new Non-League Directory that they have a badge on offer. The last impressive enamel badge in yellow is shown. Camberley Town recently brought out a football motif enamel badge in red and white: a welcome addition, if overpriced, at Krooner Park. Chertsey Town have a fine club crest and it was a pleasure to provide them with a blue enamel badge when they approched me in April 1987 for help. Dorking have no badges in contrast at their Meadowbank Ground - how about 100 for just 99p each, gentlemen? A former Supporters Club issue is shown.









Eastbourne United had a fine black and white enamel badge on sale at The Oval, but supplies have long since expired. Egham Town have an ornate club crest that is just crying out to be turned into an enamel badge, but my approach to date has brought no reply from Tempest Road though they state that a badge is in their plans this season. Epsom & Ewell's Club Shop was interested in having a badge made when supplies of their plastic badges ran out, but I have not heard from them since. An old club badge from West Street is shown.





Feltham have contacted me a few times about having a badge made, but no progress has been made. Their last enamel issue in blue and white enamel is depicted. At Summers Lane, Finchley state they have badges in stock which I can only take to be the blue and white badge shown, though none were available when I last wrote. Neither Flackwell Heath nor Harefield United have a badge currently.





Although not now competing now in this League, I have shown Haringey Borough's last issue so they are not forgotten entirely. Ian Hands has got things moving on the programme and badge side at Horsham where my production for the Queen Street club is on sale. Hungerford Town's last issue is shown, a Supporters Club production which I believe is no longer in stock. Maidenhead United dabbled with some plastic insert badges a few seasons ago, but have had no proper badge for some time now. A former issue is shown featuring the Magpie of their nickname. Hot off the press is a new badge at Walton Road, a stark contrast to Molesey's last compact badge. This new one is quite sizeable and depicts the club crest in good detail.





Centenary badge for Newbury Town which is depicted. The club crest is featured against a yellow outer surround. No badges are to be found at Love Lane for Petersfield United, nor at Ruislip Manor's Grosvenor Vale ground. Southall are advertising a £1 badge in the new Non-League Directory, although I have lost count of the number of unanswered letters I have written to them in this context. Their last issue was a plastic-insert, but a former enamel Supporters Club badge is shown. Similarly, Whyteleafe state in the Directory that they have a badge on offer, though letters rarely prompt a response. Their smart little badge, another Malcolm Baker issue, which is shown was the last of which I was aware, so hopefully they have re-stocked. We end at Yeading drawing another blank: nothing on offer at Beaconsfield Road.

Thanks once again to Mike Woolnough for the use of his Badge Directory illustrations. His Catalogue featuring 3000 League and Non-League badges is still available for £7-00 plus 70p P&P from 131 Chatteris Avenue, Romford, Essex. RM3 8JY. Mention GROUNDHOPPER when you write! My new November list of badges for sale can be obtained by sending a large SAE to 25 Tulip Court, Nursery Road, Pinner. Middlesex. HA5 2AP. See you all next month!

WILTSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE DIRECTORY - from Page 15

UPAVON : Ground: Recreation Ground, Andover Road, Upavon. Colours: Red & White. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr G J Spanswick, 7 Chapel Lane, Upavon, Pewsey. SN9 6DY. Tel: 0980 630525. Nearest Railway Station: Pewsey.
WALCOT ATHLETIC : Ground: Shrewsbury Road, Swindon. Colours: Blue & White stripes. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr K Sear, 5 Winwick Road, Freshbrook, Swindon. SN5 8NF. Tel: 0793 695742. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.
WARMINSTER TOWN : Ground: Weymouth Street, Warminster. Colours: Sky Blue. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr D Saunders, 1 King Street, Warminster. BA12 8DG. Tel: 0985 219356. Nearest Railway Station: Warminster.
WESTBURY UNITED : Ground: Meadow Lane, Westbury. Tel: 0373 823409. Colours: Green & White. Programme: Yes. Hon. Sec: Mr B J Barber, 9 Westbourne Road, Westbury. BA13 3HJ. Tel: 0373 822117. Nearest Railway Station: Westbury.
WEST SWINDON : Ground: Greendown School, Grange Park Way, West Swindon. Colours: Maroon & Sky Blue. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr M J Bird, 2 Colchester Close, Toothill, Swindon. SN5 8AG. Tel: 0793 481057. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.
WILTON TOWN : Ground: Castle Meadow, Castle Lane, North Street, Wilton. Colours: Red & White stripes. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr M J Macey, 52 North Street, Wilton, Salisbury. SP2 0HH. Tel: 0722 742402. Nearest Railway Station: Salisbury.
WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN : Ground: Gerrard Buxton Sports Ground, Rylands Way, Wootton Bassett. Colours: Black & White. Programme: Yes. Hon. Sec: Mr.F Harrison, 2 Blackthorn Close, Wootton Bassett. SN4 7JE. Tel: 0793 853482. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.
WROUGHTON : Ground: Weir Field, Wroughton. Colours: White. Programme: No. Hon. Sec: Mr C G Swatton, 33 Betjeman Avenue, Wootton Bassett. SN4 8JY. Tel: 0793 855194. Nearest Railway Station: Swindon.

NEXT MONTH'S FEATURED LEAGUE DIRECTORY : THE SKOL NORTHERN LEAGUE DIVISIONS 1 & 2

Glasgow Perthshire & Dalry Thistle

BY RAYMOND JARVIE

Focus on GLASGOW PERTHSHIRE (Central League)

The unusually named Glasgow Perthshire has always intrigued me as Glasgow is some 60 miles from the Scottish County! In fact, the club play at Keppoch Park, Possilpark just to the north of Glasgow city centre. The nearest station is Springburn, 15 minutes walk away.

It seems that the club, formed in 1890, was originally for people who moved to the city from Perthshire looking for work. Now of course it is open to all. Keppoch Park is extremely basic with the only cover being in front of the small pavilion. There is room for about 50 people. The rest of the ground is uneven grass banking. Possilpark is not the prettiest part of Glasgow; the ground is surrounded by a bus garage, a a rough housing estate and wasteground. However, the local fans are friendly, amusing and know their junior football. Crowds are around 100 for most matches.

Programme producing is slowly increasing in Scottish non-league football as clubs discover this is a good way of boosting funds. Perthshire have, this season, jumped on the bandwagon, although there is record of them having produced a magazine in 1934! The current production is only 8 pages with limited content but at least they are making the effort.

Just around the corner from Keppoch Park is Saracen Park, the home of Ashfield JFC. This ground once held 26,513 for a Scottish Junior Cup tie, against Clydebank, in 1952-3. There is usually a door open for a quick look at Scotland's largest non-league ground.



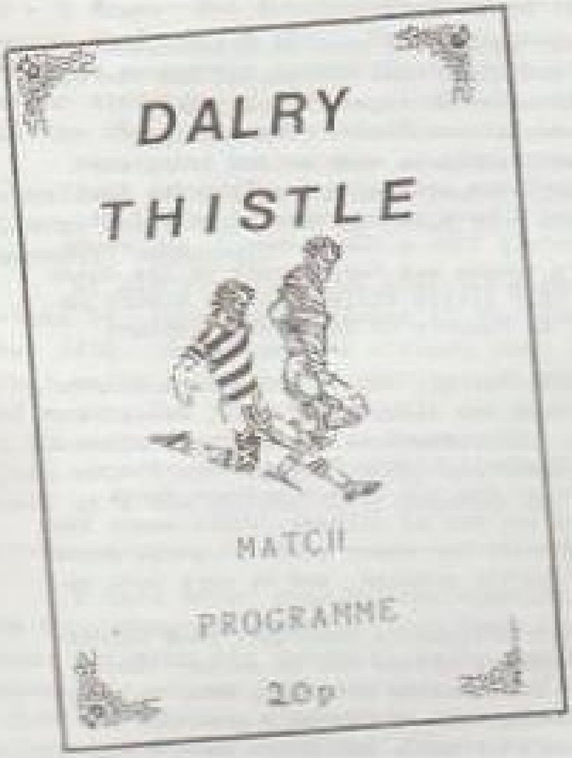


Focus on DALRY THISTLE (Ayrshire League)

Dalry Thistle play at Merksworth Park in St. Margarets Avenue, just a few minutes walk from the town centre.

Their ground is well kept and tidy, having recently been renovated by the local Manpower Services Unit. The only cover is along one side and has the club's name emblazoned in large letters on the back. The rest of the ground has some steps of terracing all the way round. The base is lined with seashells - unusual this, as Dalry is some distance from the coast. Next to the enclosure is

the pavilion. This is for officials only, but you are permitted to have a look at their interesting display of old photographs.
There is no social club, but snacks are on sale. Nearest pubs are the Museum Arms and the Volunteer Arms, both in the main street.
Dalry is 45 minutes by rail from Glasgow Central. Trains run every hour. This line (Glasgow-Ardrossan) is excellent for visiting other Ayrshire clubs such as Kilbirnie Ladeside, Kilwinning Rangers, Ardeer Thistle and Ardrossan Winton Rovers. On leaving Dalry station, head towards the town and turn left down the hill at the cross, opposite the Museum Arms. At the foot of the hill turn right to find the ground.
Thistle issue a regular programme. Printed on a word processor it has 28 pages for 20p. There are no team lines, but pen-pics of the home side are featured as well as a page on the visitors. The local paper, the Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald covers Dalry and the other nearby clubs.







PHOTOS:

Left - Action from the Glasgow Perthshire v. Renfrew match on 30.4.88.

Above - The ground at Dalry Thistle.

Photos by Raymond Jarvie.



STEVE PETTIT'S GROUNDHOPPER'S CLUB NEWS

By the time you read this, it'll be long gone. These people, [illegible] from [illegible], Devon, [illegible] Wilson Rovers, assembled at Cannock in Staffordshire at 3.30am, to travel by minibus to watch Stenhousemuir v Brechin City in the Scottish second division. These are members of the newly formed groundhopping national organisation, the Hopper Round Britain Club. This is their third visit to Scotland this year, they were oversubscribed for the trip, and are thinking about expansion.

The organiser is our intrepid Steve Pettit, programme editor for Hednesford Town of the Beazer Homes League and one of football's super-heroes. He has been to 49 matches so far this season, and said: "The chap who will be out driving on Saturday has already been to 63 or 70, and will reckon on doing 300 by the end of the season. I admit that's going a bit far, because he goes to a game almost every day of the week. When, like me, you've got a wife and a job and don't want to lose either, you've got to be a bit realistic."

THE STENHOUSEMUIR TRIP

(OR "NUTCASES MEET NUTCASE!!")

On the Sunday before our trip to Stenhousemuir I had a telephone call from Paul Newman, of The Times, who was, by all accounts, intrigued by our newly formed 'Hopper Round Britain Club'. The result of our little chat can clearly be seen on the left, and was included in The Times newspaper for Saturday 22nd October. I must say I have never regarded myself as being anything remotely like a 'Super-hero', and would imagine that Paul's tongue was very firmly in his cheek when he dreamt up that little title! (Super Scruff is my official title, as readers of The Sunday Mercury will know!).

My friend from Surrey, who is not a Groundhopper, pulled out of the trip two weeks beforehand, owing to a mix-up on the date. This meant we were able to offer a place to Tividale Football Club's Fixtures Secretary, Mick Stanley. Then on the eve of our sojourn North Dave Bradley pulled out due to illness, which meant that after turning people down we were now going to be left with one empty seat. A quick phone call to Derek Burness from Hitchin soon resolved that little problem, and we were full up once again.

Trevor Pike (Dawlish) and Ian Raffel (Coleford, but originally Dumfries) both turned up mid-evening, and amazed my wife as they were both smartly kitted out in suits. There was time for a quick drink in Hednesford Town's Social Club before returning home to greet Derek. We then spent a fascinating hour looking at photographs of football grounds. Trevor had brought his albums (all eighty three volumes of them!), and there were some very good photographs to be viewed. But the highlight of the evening was the album containing Trevor's proud collection of photographs of.....wait for it.....CORNER FLAGS! There were red ones, yellow ones, green ones, straight ones, crooked ones, etc - could it be that Trevor is to be the Pioneer of a new Groundhopping breakaway trend? The Corner Flag Freaks? (He certainly made a bee-line for the nearest corner flag when we got to Stenhousemuir, but that's another story).

Downtown Hednesford on a dark and dingy morning is the in-place to be for the modern Groundhopper, and so it was that eleven of us met in the car park at the Cross Keys at an unGodly hour, in preparation for our long journey north. A brief detour to pick up Colin Gilbert from Norton Canes, and we were on our way.

After breakfasting at Carlisle Services we raced on through the Lowlands of Scotland, and by noon we were all quite happy to stretch our legs by stopping off for a look around Albion Rovers' ground. The place was deserted, but the ground nowhere near as ramshackle as I'd been led to imagine. Currently, only one side of the ground is opened to spectators on Matchdays, giving an official capacity of 878, but I could really see little wrong with the rest of the ground. A few minutes later we were inside Airdrie's ground, which is only a mile up the road from Albion Rovers. This is a very neat little stadium, nicely designed, and the old gentleman sitting on a bench inside barely batted an eyelid when twelve raving mad football fans walked in to have a look round.

When we reached our ultimate destination at around 1.30 p.m., it was a case of Paul Newman's 'Nutcases' meeting Stenhousemuir's 'Nutter'. He looked like a Club Official, this Robert fellow, but once the match began his ranting and raving, his frantic pacing of the touchline, his constant stream of foul and abusive language, aimed at the Match Officials, the Brechin players, and the home supporters alike, soon had us all looking for the men in white coats. It was evident that this man genuinely had a 'screw loose'. He kept threatening to eject a small bunch of Stenhousemuir supporters, when their only crime as far as I could see was that they had looked at him! He was so bad that, apparently, the Referee told the home club Officials at half time that unless they did something he would personally call in the Police. Robert did calm down in the second half, but it was touch and go. He still ejected two young boys from the ground late on in the match for leaning against a fence! The lads re-appeared on the far side of the ground two minutes later. I find it quite staggering to believe that a man who behaves in this manner appears to be connected with the club in some official capacity. He was friendly enough to us visiting Sassenachs,

CONTINUED ON MIDLANDS DIARY PAGE.........

THE STENHOUSEMUIR TRIP (Cont'd)

......it has to be said, but I can't imagine that by allowing this chap to act like this that Stenhousemuir are doing themselves any favours.

Everybody else at the ground was friendly enough. We spent a pleasant hour in the social club before going out to watch the match. The ground is pleasantly located, with the Ochil Hills a few miles away providing an eyecatching backdrop to the main stand. The stand is very similar in size and design to those at Brechin City and Stranraer, and opposite lies a length of covered terracing. There is also terracing (open) behind one goal, while at the far end it is simply flat grass standing to which access is not allowed.

The match itself was rather scrappy, and for a long time had all the symptoms of a 0 - 0 draw. But Brechin City moved up a gear in the second half, and in the end were well worth their 2 - 0 win. Stenhousemuir did 'score' in the dying minutes, when the ball bounced awkwardly around in the penalty area, went over the goal-line, and came out again after strinking a divot. I didn't actually see this myself, but Ray Owen was well placed at the time, and this was his account of what happened.

We stayed behind for a while afterwards to purchase various souvenirs, including an excellent 'Scottish Review' book. Then it was home, with a stop at the chippies in Gretna where the food is cheap and cheerful, but the presence of the hordes of local youth somewhat menacing.

At our final coffee stop we discussed future plans, and it was decided that we would visit St. Johnstone v Queen of the South, on March 25th, and Raith Rovers v Partick, on May 13th. Bookings have already been taken for both trips, and it now seems highly likely that we're going to be putting out the 'House Full' notices. However, in the next couple of months Ray Owen and I will be examining the possibility of hiring a 15 seater or even a 20 seater (if demand warrants that action), so please let me know soon if you wish to join us. These trips really are excellent, and a great way of getting in a game of football at a new ground in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere.

---------------------------------- MIDLANDS DIARY ----------------------------------

I have never really been convinced about the merits of including a column like this in Groundhopper Magazine, and have long felt that reports on where one certain person has been watching his football every month can't make for interesting reading. I do try and make this column interesting, but after nearly a year even I'm beginning to think that what I write has a sameness about it. In view of that, I had a recent chat with Steve King, and we have decided that in future months my Midlands Diary will have more newsy content, with, hopefully, an occasional dip into more off-beat subjects. If you have any suggestions on the kind of subject you would like to see covered in future, please get in touch.

Anyway, to close this present format I'll tell you about a couple of trips made to F.A. Cup matches in October.

Chadderton versus Hyde United looked very tempting, and as a couple of fellow Groundhoppers based in the Midlands were also going we decided to share a car.

Situated on the outskirts of Oldham, Chadderton's ground was predictably well filled on the day. The one stand is a low-lying structure offering both seated and standing cover, while the rest of the ground is open, with flat standing on two sides and a grass bank behind one goal. The home side scored first, which certainly made the match more interesting, and they then had to withstand some tremendous pressure before eventually succumbing to a double-strike shortly before half-time. Hyde literally strolled the second half, and the three goals they added to their 2 - 1 interval lead were not a true reflection of their superiority on the day.

Two weeks later I had the chance of two matches on a Saturday, thanks to a Friday evening phone call from my groundhopping friend and fellow Hednesford Town supporter Colin Gilbert. Off we went to Morecambe on the Saturday morning, and arrived there in plenty of time to watch their local derby with Barrow. The home club had switched the kick-off to noon on Police advice, and this move looked well justified in the end, as there was some crowd trouble caused by the visiting supporters. A shame, really, as the number of DECENT Barrow supporters there far outweighed the number of idiots, some of whom looked to be in their thirties and should therefore know better. The match ended in a very disappointing 0 - 0 draw.

There followed a mad dash to Fleetwood Town, who were playing Emley, and this match was everything a good cup tie should be. It finished in a 2 - 2 draw, which was a fair result on the balance of play, and included a couple of cracking goals from the home side. Tremendous stuff!

By the time you read this column the convention at Weston Super Mare will have 'been and gone', and will hopefully have been a success. Certainly, the number of people who expressed an interest in attending was pleasing, but my biggest headache was that we had no less than seventeen people who wanted to play in the friendly match. I don't like to disappoint anybody, and believe we should keep faith with those who have supported our conventions regularly in the past (people like Rob Davison and David Gorton, for instance), so with the Weston convention just eight days away at the time these notes were written I was busy trying to work out a way of ensuring that everybody gets to play an equal number of minutes. At least it's nice to see the conventions these days proving more and more popular.

Please be patient if you sent me an application form for Groundhoppers Club membership and have not yet received a reply. I am still wading through a backlog of unanswered letters, and will shortly be having a day off work to bring everything up to date.

We are still receiving new membership applications on a fairly regular basis, and I was particularly pleased to get one from Mrs Ruth Chadwick, who is, as far as I know, the first lady to join the club of her own accord. (That is, an application from a lady who is not joining in conjunction with a husband or boyfriend). Ruth is 63, and has been a loyal supporter of Accrington Stanley since the age of four. She has a bubbly personality and is full of life, and I think it is marvellous that she is attempting to get a Club Shop going at her local ground. Next month I will give you details on how to get in touch with her if you want to organise exchange deals, etc.

A considerable amount of interest has been shown in a possible convention at North Shields next spring, and I will be in touch again with their Club Secretary Ken Green to see how early we can arrange a firm date. The early indications are that we should have enough people from the Midlands alone to make the hiring of a minibus worthwhile. But please, whatever part of the country you live in, if you think you would like to attend a meeting at this ground then get in touch with me now, so that Ken and I might have a reasonable idea of the kind of support we can expect.

News of a car-sharing venture which went ahead recently, following notes in earlier editions of this column.....Trevor Pike, from Dawlish, met up with Dave Bradley, from Milton Keynes, and together they went to Scunthorpe's new ground for a Saturday match. (I forget which). Dave told me afterwards that this had been worth trying, as the idea worked out well for both concerned.

Another possible venue for a convention this season is Cannock Chase F.C. (Formerly known as Hednesford Progressive). My good friend Pete Lomas, a Chase official, is very keen on the idea of having hordes of Groundhoppers descend on his club one Saturday next March, and over the next few weeks we are going to get together to try and sort out not only a date, but a convention format with a difference. Cannock Chase play in the First Division of the Banks's Brewery League, and issue an excellent thirty page programme for every home match. There's a fair chance that Pete and I will join forces and come up with a 40 page-plus special issue when the Groundhoppers meet.....Again, please write and let me know if you'd be willing to support a convention held here.

One idea I have for future conventions (including the two mentioned above) is for the Groundhoppers Club to sponsor the match at which a convention is held, with a view to helping the home club. This could be done in a way which should by now be familiar to us all - by raising the sponsorship money from our friendly matches and our Prize Soccerquizzes. Whether you agree or disagree, or have ideas of your own, let me know what you think.

Christopher Ashbridge nominates Burnham Ramblers for the 'TEA BAR OF THE YEAR AWARD'. Christopher says "Their tea bar is situated in a superb position, on a balcony behind the stand, and from here you have a superb view of the match. Not only that, but they make rolls to order." Many thanks for your nomination, Christopher. In next month's issue we will have further nominations, including a couple from Andy Molden of Abingdon Town fame.

A REGULAR LOOK AT A TYPICAL MONTH IN THE LIFE OF ONE OF OUR READERS

MY MONTH

This month: ***Richard Briggs*** *of Sherbourne, Dorset,* describes his groundhopping adventures during the month of Sept 1988

If you would like to send in an article for this page, please write to us now!

MY MONTH, SEPTEMBER 24 TO OCTOBER 22

My groundhopping over these four weeks has seen me at five different grounds in three counties.

An attractive FA Trophy first qualifying round tie at Taunton Town took my fancy on September 24. The Great Mills League side's opponents were Beazer Homes League team Dorchester Town.

The Magpies totally outclassed their hosts and a 35 yard shot from Peter Morrell gave them the lead. Taunton soon missed a penalty and Dorchester scored the only other goal of the game before the interval through Peter Loveridge.

The attendance at Taunton's Wordsworth Drive ground was 250, although the appalling weather could have put paid to a bigger attendance. Taunton issue quite a good prgrammme for 30p.

The next Saturday, I went to Great Mills League Tiverton Town's splendid Ladysmead ground for an FA Cup first qualifying round tie with Merthyr Tydfil.

A crowd of 700 saw Merthyr win 1-0 with a dubious penalty from Paul Giles 17 minutes from time, but little Tivvy bombarded the Martyrs' goal for much of the game, which was played in bright sunshine.

Ladysmead has a superb playing surface, a lovely social club and a big grandstand and is just off Tiverton town centre. Programmes cost 20p and high quality tea is served in china cups.

The next Wednesday, I went to Huish to see Yeovil Town take on Newport County in the first round of the Club Call Cup. Newport won 5-4 in extra time after being 3-0 down with 15 minutes of normal time left.

The game will be etched on the memories of the 1,838 people present for years because the referee sent off five players and booked several others!

There was much debate afterwards about the referee. It can be argued he was overzealous, but all the offences he noted were bookable, or indeed dismissable.

October 8 saw me at Chard Town' barren Town Ground for an FA Vase preliminary round game with Westbury United. The Town Ground has a nice social club, where tea costs just 12p, and a reasonable programme is issued for 20p. But the pitch has a bad slope and little cover.

Both sides play in the Great Mills League, but Westbury, from the lower division, caused a shock with a 4-1 win. The attendance was approximately 80. The White Horse Men completely dominated the game and could have had a couple more goals.

The following Saturday, I went back to Ladysmead for Tiverton versus Devizes Town in a top of the table Great Mills battle. Tivvy won 3-2, but didn't really get going until the last 30 minutes.

Another big crowd of 200 saw Neil Greening, Clive Jones and Kevin Bryant, with a penalty, reply after Andy Murgatroyd had put Devizes ahead. Eddie Gordon pulled one back for the visitors late on.

And it was back to Huish on October 19 for Yeovil versus Cheltenham Town in the Conference. Cheltenham ended Yeovil's eight-match unbeaten league run with a 3-1 victory in front of 2,403 people.

The Robins appeared a far superior side than their hosts and they built up a 3-0 lead before Yeovil pulled one back with a late penalty on a cold night. The match programme is reasonably priced at 40p.

Then it was off to Dorchester Town's Avenue ground on October 22 to see the Magpies entertain Welsh League big boys Barry Town in an uninspiring FA Trophy second qualifying round match.

The Avenue also has a bad slope and a bumpy pitch, and a paltry crowd of 218 saw Dorchester achieve a 1-0 win on it with a late goal from skipper Trevor Townsend.

Barry brought a lot of supporters with them and they sometimes out-shouted the home fans! Dorchester's programme is free, despite the fact that 50p is printed on the cover, and tea is 20p. There is also an excellent club shop at the turnstiles side of the ground.

An unsavoury incident occurred as the players walked to the dressing rooms after the game. Barry players, unhappy at a refereeing decision that should have seen Townsend sent off, threw punches at their Dorchester counterparts.

RON JONES' PROGRAMME SCENE

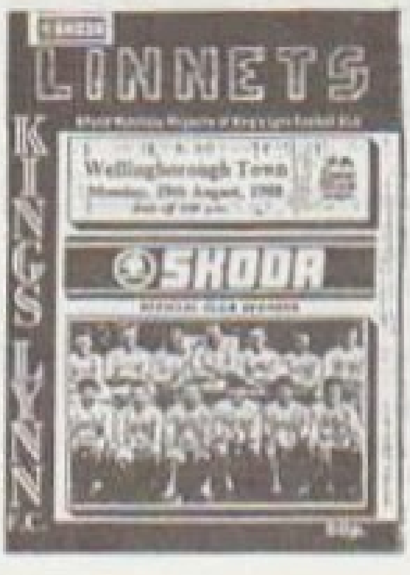


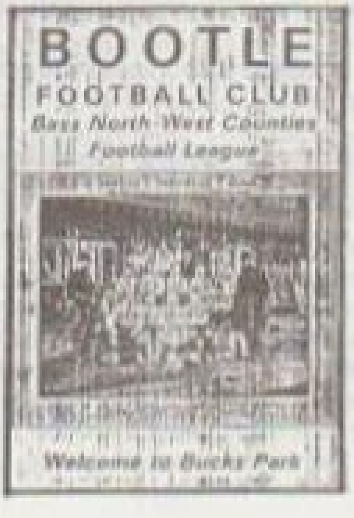
BY THE MAN WHO KNOWS HIS NON-LEAGUE PROGRAMMES

Welcome to another programme column, where I will be reviewing another selection of non-league programmes from this season. Before I begin this month's reviews I would like to mention a couple of things which may be of interest to collectors of non-league programmes. Firstly, the programme catalogue is now available containing a large selection of 1988-89 non-league issues for sale at reasonable prices. We hope to be publishing it every 1 or 2 months from now on, updating each one with new stock. If you would like a free copy, just send me a large s.a.e. to: Ron Jones (Programme Catalogue), 24 Poplar Road, Wimbledon, London, SW19 3JR. There are quite a few unusual programmes on the latest list from clubs that are quite hard to obtain programmes from normally, especially those who compete in the FA Vase, so to make sure you get in first, send for your catalogue today. Secondly, our large selection of programmes, together with our "Groundhopper Magazine" stall will be at the Giant New Year Fair at the start of January so watch this column next month for full details.

Now to the reviews for this month. KINGS LYNN have improved tremendously their programme for 1988-89, and although it costs 50p, contains 36 pages, with a striking red, blue and yellow cover design, and although there are 20 pages of advertising, it does have quite an interesting layout. There is a Beazer Homes round-up, a full page on the visitors including usual pen-pix, a page of action photos, a review of the previous Saturday's results, and the centre pages are taken up by statistics including results, appearances, scorers, etc. There is a quick quiz, a full page devoted to the club shop, a look back to 5, 15, and 25 years ago, a general non-league round-up, reserve team page, etc. All in all, it is good value for money, and a lot of work has gone into the production.

From the BNWCL comes the offering from BOOTLE, and here is proof that it is not only girocheques that come out of this place! A 20-page issue is given away with the admission cost, and although more than half consists of adverts, it is not a bad effort for a club of this size. This season's front cover is in blue on glossy white paper, containing an old photo of the team from 100 years ago with the Liverpool & District Challenge Cup. Inside, there is a few lines from the manager, with the team-line ups curiously on page 5, followed by a few brief notes about the visitors, and then a page of club news. The rest of the issue consists mainly of fixtures, results, quiz and reserve team notes. Next up we have LUTTERWORTH TOWN from the Leicestershire Senior League, which is priced at 35p including admission. There is certainly not a lot of reading matter in this programme, but it is still a valuable addition to the collection. There is an attractive green and black glossy cover, with a further 12 pages of adverts inside. For the review copy against Wigston Fields, there was a photocopied sheet in the centre with just the team line-ups hand-written, plus date of the match and the competition. What a shame that having had such a good outer shell printed, consisting of 16 pages containing mainly adverts, little has been done inside to match that. Although as I have already said, it is one for the collection, I'm sure that something better could have been done to replace the hand-written team line-ups in the centre of the programme. But at least it is







a programme, and for that we must be thankful. Anglian Combination Leaguers NORWICH UNITED produce a 12-page programme printed throughout on white glossy paper. The front cover has a black and white team photo, with a yellow background which is quite eye-catching. For the review copy v. Harlow Town in the FA Vase, there is a page of Secretary's notes, followed by a league table, and then a three-page feature on the visitors, including pen-pictures and history of the club. Then comes a feature about Harlow's cup run from 1979 in their centenary, when they reached the 4th Round proper after disposing of Leicester City and Southend, finally losing to Watford after a struggle. The team line-ups are on the back page. Although quite heavy on advertising, this is another club who have only been issuing for a couple of seasons, and again it makes a very welcome addition to the collection.

SALISBURY are issuing a 44-page programme for 30p, with a glossy cover in blue. Although at least 30 of the pages are adverts, there is still plenty to read in this one. There is a manager's column, Supporters Club page, quiz, Southern Scene round-up from the local area clubs, a page looking back at previous encounters with the visitors, with the teams printed in the centre. This is then followed by results, statistics, two pages of action photos and the news desk page to complete the issue. Although Salisbury's crowds are very small, this is not a bad effort for 30p, and it does represent good value for money.

Our final programme this month is from BACKWELL UNITED of the Great Mills Western League. They have a 16-page effort, again included with admission. The cover is printed on glossy paper and is in yellow and white, with the club name at the top, followed by the club crest and ground name in blue. The opposition, date and competition is printed in the form of a sticker which has been carefully placed over the words "Season 1987-88" so they are obviously using up stocks of old covers, and why not! Inside, there is a page giving a brief history of the club, followed by a page written by Editor Mike Stone, and for the review copy against Bristol Manor Farm, there is a small piece on the visitors including an action photo from one of their matches. Then comes fixtures, results, scorers etc, with centre pages reserved for the team line-ups which are dominated by the now familiar Great Mills adverts that are a feature of most clubs in this league. The rest of the programme mainly consists of adverts, although there are details of coming fixtures, a look back at the League Cup results of Backwell United since 1983 (this programme reviewed is for a League Cup tie), Press Talk where a match report is cut out from the local newspaper, and a full 1st and 2nd round listing of the draw for the League Cup. There is quite a bit of advertising in this programme, but as it is included in admission, there cannot be too many complaints.

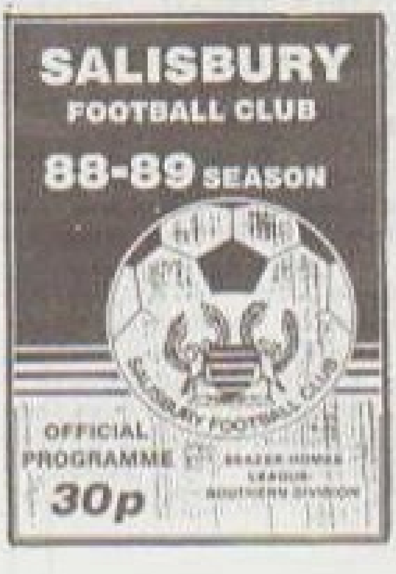
WELL, THAT'S IT FOR ANOTHER MONTH. IN THE NEXT ISSUE, DUE OUT JUST BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, I WILL BE REVIEWING ANOTHER SIX NON-LEAGUE PROGRAMMES FROM THIS SEASON, AND I WILL TELL YOU ABOUT THE GIANT NEW YEAR FAIR AND TELL YOU HOW YOU CAN PICK UP SOME AMAZING BARGAINS ON THE BIG DAY FROM OUR STALL.

AND DON'T FORGET, IF YOU HAVE ANY UNUSUAL 1988-89 NON-LEAGUE PROGRAMMES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE US TO PUBLICISE/REVIEW IN THESE PAGES, SEND THEM IN TO USUAL MAGAZINE ADDRESS NOW. WE CANNOT RETURN PROGRAMMES, SO ONLY SEND SPARE COPIES.

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH.

RON JONES







SMALL ADS

Each month in *Groundhopper Magazine*, we are offering readers the chance to advertise in our Classifieds Section of the magazine. If you require or wish to sell programmes, etc., drop us a line with the details (maximum 50 words in advert) by the end of the month to be guaranteed inclusion in the next issue. Space is very limited, so it will be on a first come, first served basis, and the advert will only appear for one issue. Programme Dealers are excluded from this offer, small ads are for private use only. Write to: Groundhopper Magazine Small Ads, 439 Merton Road, Wandsworth, London SW18 5LB. Some ads may be held over due to shortage of space.

* NEW 40-page 1988-89 Clacton Town programmes only 25p (please add 19p p&p). Also available on subscription or will exchange 5 of your clubs programmes for 5 of ours.
KEVIN CRANE, 2 PURLEY WAY, CLACTON-ON-SEA, ESSEX, CO16 8YX.

* EATON Hall College FC of the Lincolnshire Premier League are again issuing a programme. It has been increased to 16 pages with only 2½ pages of advertising. Cost: 10p plus S.A.E. (A5 size programme).
GRAHAM CURRY, SECRETARY, 81 ORDSALL PARK ROAD, ORDSALL, RETFORD, NOTTS, DN22 7PQ.

* PEN-PALS wanted. A groundhopper would like to write to other members of the hobby to exchange views and programmes, and on grounds visited, etc.
DARREN WILLIS, 27 REGENT CLOSE, EATON SOCON, ST. NEOTS, CAMBS, PE19 3DT.

* FOR a copy of my latest list, send 25p stamps. All types listed including many unusual non-league.
IAN RUNHAM, 3 TANSLEY CLOSE, NEWTON, WEST KIRBY, WIRRAL, L48 9XH.

* A COMPLETE record of Stirling Albion FC since their formation in 1945. This book contains details of every match, competitive and friendly, played by the club. It also contains information about every player ever signed by the club. Price £3 + 50p postage and packing.
ALLAN GRIEVE, 11 QUEEN STREET, STIRLING, FK8 1HL.

* NOW available! 1988 Handbook from Hoddesdon Town Football Club. Just 75p to include postage and packing for 40 pages, packed with reviews, information, statistics, photos, + League Directory of the South Midlands League clubs 88-89 Premier Division, and lots more!
DEREK FIELDSEND, 42 RODNEY CRESCENT, HODDESDON, HERTS, EN11 9EW.

* LAPELS : Over 150 non-league badges on my new lists. Send large SAE to me. Quotes available to make your club a new badge too.
TOBY JACKSON, 25 TULIP COURT, NURSERY ROAD, PINNER, MIDDX, HA5 2AP.

* REQUIRED URGENTLY! Rare or unusual non-league programmes, especially from clubs who only issue occasionally or for one-off games. Excellent prices paid for your programmes. Please send list and prices to:-
STEVE KING, 439 MERTON ROAD, WANDSWORTH, LONDON, SW18 5LB.

COMING NEXT MONTH

Apologies for the non-appearance this month of the three "Club Files" that were advertised to appear in this issue. These will now appear in a future issue.
Next month, in our special CHRISTMAS SPECIAL, we hope to bring you the following:-

* Groundhopping in Ireland - special report on A.R. Howells' visit to Dublin.
* Special features on SUPERMARINE, BRIDPORT and LISKEARD ATHLETIC.
* Richard Boggis tells GHM of his first taste of continental football in France with some excellent ground photographs.
* Special christmas offerings from the badge & programme scene with columns by Toby Jackson and Ron Jones.
* A giant Non-League quiz & competition with a chance to win the brand new book to be published shortly called "Non-League grounds of Great Britain" which is worth nearly £20.
* Plus - all the regular features such as Tony Middleton column, Welsh Rabbit, Club Shop Review, Top Ten Grounds, My Month, etc. etc.

And look out for our colourful christmas cover. Next month's issue will be even better value than usual at only £1.00. And it will contain dozens of previously unpublished ground and action photographs unrivalled by any other non-league magazine. Next month's special issue will be mailed out on Wednesday 7th December. So look out for the great JANUARY 1989 issue.

Groundhopper Magazine General Guidance Notes

1. The main aim of the Groundhopper Magazine and the jointly run Groundhoppers Club is to promote Non-League football and to give it's subscribers and club members the opportunity of contributing in the form of articles, letters and photographs, etc.
2. Membership of the Groundhoppers Club is FREE. To join, write to Steve Pettit (Membership Secretary) at the address on the inside front cover, enclosing full details such as your name, address, groundhopping interests, etc. Also, please enclose a s.a.e. for the return of your membership card.
3. Once you become a member you are entitled to certain privileges as outlined in the club literature detailed elsewhere.
4. As a club it will be financed in association with Groundhopper Magazine, and all members will receive an annual statement of accounts at the A.G.M. on a date to be arranged, probably on the day of a convention at a non-league venue to be decided. Full details will appear in the magazine.
5. There will be conventions, organised trips to grounds and fundraising events throughout the year, jointly arranged by the Groundhopper Magazine and Groundhoppers Club.
6. Groundhopper Magazine is published EVERY month throughout the year, with current subscription rates shown on the inside front cover. Contained in each issue are full details of all Club events such as news of conventions, etc.
7. If sending photographs for inclusion in the magazine, please note that there may be a delay in returning them if more than six are sent at once. The process for preparing them for publication is expensive, and we can therefore only use photos for one issue at a time. Please ALWAYS indicate when sending photos whether you would like them returned or whether we can retain them.
8. The magazine is usually despatched on the 15th of each month, subject to copy deadlines being met with our printers. You should receive your magazine about two weeks prior to cover date. (ie, January issue received 16th or 17th December).
9. We cannot be held responsible for material being lost in the post when being returned to originator after use (such as photos, etc.)
10. The magazine is available on SUBSCRIPTION ONLY. When you are coming to the end of your subscription we will send you a letter reminding you that it is time to renew, and will enclose a new subscription form.
11. A joint Groundhoppers Club and Magazine Committee has been formed, with the purpose of helping to organise events, help with fund-raising, etc. If YOU would like to join please write to Steve King for full details.
12. A limited number of back issues of Groundhopper Magazine are available from Ron Jones, 24 Poplar Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 3JR. For current availability please check elsewhere in this month's issue.
13. For copy dates for this year's issues, please see elsewhere for full details, which also includes despatch dates for the magazine.
14. Please give the magazine maximum publicity whenever possible, and support us at the Annual General Meeting and at conventions and all organised events.

Please mention Groundhopper Magazine when you write to any of our advertisers

GROUNDHOPPER Magazine

ACTION SHOTS



Peter Beardsley beats Aylesbury's Tim Garner to score the first goal in England's 7-0 win before the ill-fated Euro-Championships. *Photo: Tim Lancaster.*



Action from Keith FC's 2-0 Highland League Cup win over Lossiemouth at the start of the season. *Photo: Leo Hoenig.*